

STEWART ISLAND NEWS

CELEBRATING RAKIURA

JULY-AUGUST 2006

\$2

The Second Annual Singles' Ball is on 19th August, and the Island has already started grooming itself: Halfmoon Bay received a trim this month from a team of tree barbers who used an ingenious and scary-looking device — a long mechanical arm with a huge whirring round blade on the end.

It's not many places on Earth where you can sit snugly above a wharf creaking with stormy seas and listen to a string quartet play Mozart. We've had some musical treats here with various bands at the Pub and a great turn-out for Toi Rakiura's evening of classical music at the Wharfside Café. On a chilly night the windows above the ferry office were steamed up from the crowd inside; the audience listened raptly to the musicians who played beautifully and held a question-answer session after the performance.

Things were a bit quiet around here for a while as half (OK, maybe an eighth) (well *you* do the math) of the population vacated to Rarotonga for a birthday celebration. Oban blokes wearing shorts, Hawaiian shirts and hibiscus behind the ear...not something you see every day (but you'll see it on page 9). Another birthday was celebrated with a marathon bonfire party on Horseshoe.



PHOTO: NICOLETTE THOMPSON

These baby pauas are ready to "leave the nest" and go to sea.

Sirocco the kakapo will be visiting Ulva Island soon (p5); a kiwi's hanging around the Rooneys'; and Nicolette Thompson has been busy sewing for her new babies...baby pauas are ready for re-seeding (p8) and Nic made special bags used to transport them to sea.

Speaking of sewing, the The Stewart Island Community Library has just added over 150 new books to its shelves including many new craft books!(p10) Stop by and see why we are so proud of our permanent collection.

We've had excitement in the wildlife department.



Muscle boys with mussel buoys

The Southland Stags were on-island this month; when they weren't barbequing, oyster-ing, or paua hunting they were busy training. One sunny afternoon they had to run from the Bay carrying mussel buoys, assemble boats from the buoys at Horseshoe Bay and continue the race into the water.



S.I.N. introduces a new feature this month: visit the Galley on page 8.

ATTENTION

An Important Notice from Debs the Nurse: She has acquired issues of *NZ Healthy Food Guide* magazine containing an important article on how to prepare for a pandemic. Debs highly recommends that we all read this. There is a magazine available for every household in the community and they can be picked up at the Library.

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The 2nd Annual STEWART ISLAND SINGLES' BALL is 19th AUG. More information on page 6.



Neville and Debs relax in Rarotonga

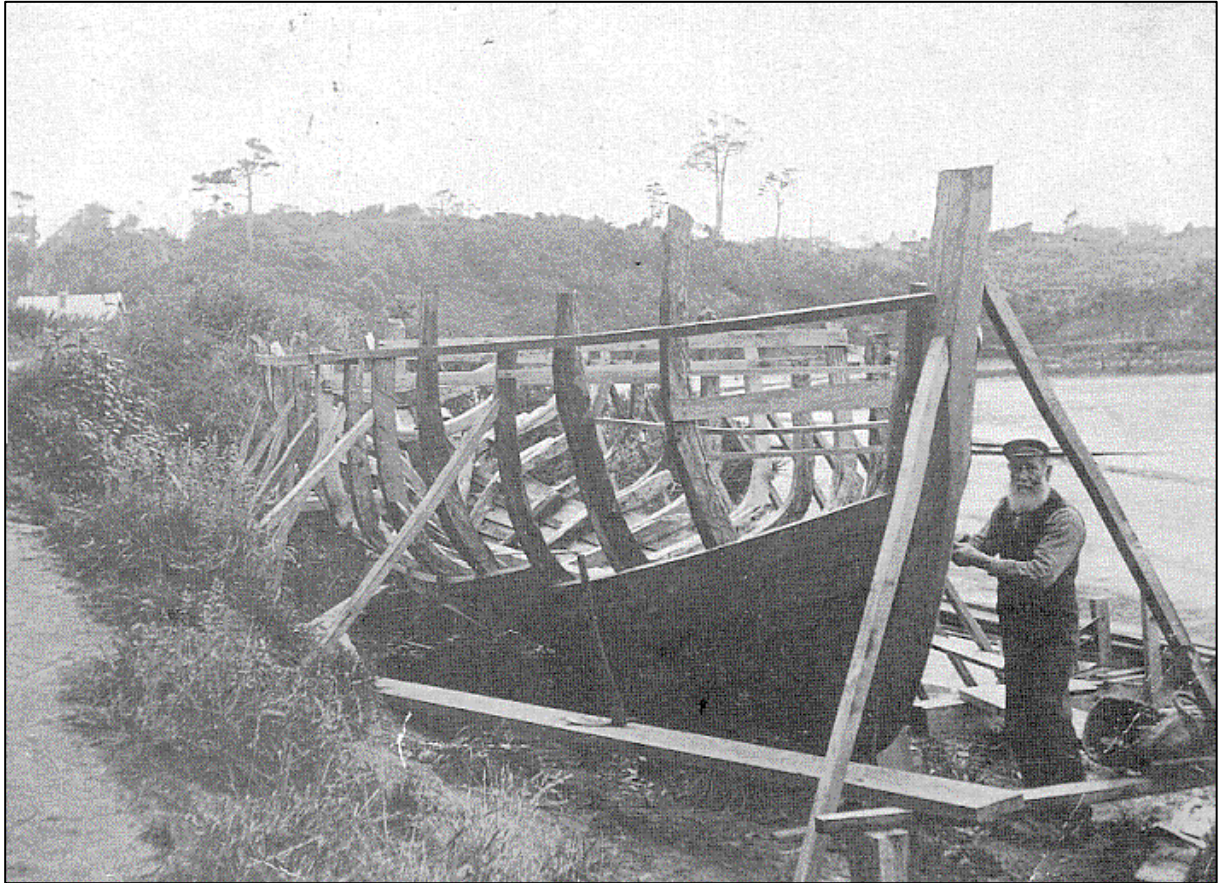
BOAT-OF-THE-MONTH: ENTERPRISE

Photo from Olga Sansom's "In the Grip of an Island."

Shown above when under construction about 1873 - 74 in Robert Scollay's "boatyard", she was a cutter and sister-ship to **ENDEAVOUR**, which was also built on the beach-front site opposite the present Post Shop.

In 1888 - 89 **ENTERPRISE** was chartered by Dr J.G.Black for his trip to Pegasus to undertake his exploration of the Tin Range.

Later, when under the command of Dan Scollay -- son of Robert --she sprang a leak while on a passage to Bluff with 13 passengers and 180 cases of fish on board. Scollay squared away and anchored in the lee of Dog Island, leaving 5 passengers on the Island and proceeding to Bluff the next morning. He was later commended for his skill.

Nothing more is known at this stage.

Printed courtesy of the King family.

MUSEUM NEWS

by Loraine Hansen

We are fortunate to have in our museum collection some fine examples of scrimshaw. The



nautical folk art of scrimshaw was developed in the early nineteenth century by whalers to while away the long hours at sea. On the long whaling voyages they had plenty of material available to work



with, namely sperm whale teeth and whalebone.

Stewart Island has a long history associated with whaling, and today a trip up Paterson Inlet to Prices Inlet will bring you to the site of what was once the base of the Rosshavet Whaling Company. There are today still

buildings in Oban township which came from the whaling base. The Managers house is a private residence, and what used to be the bunkhouse is now the Presbyterian Hall and Sunday School.

South Sea Hotel News

by Vicki Coats

The **quiz nights** have been going fantastically well, with a few regular teams and lots of tourists joining in. The charity tin was full in only four weeks and it was voted that the \$265 was to go to the Community Pool. Thanks everyone for contributing! In a shock revelation it has been decided that Father Hamish is far too clever for his own good and in future will be raffled off to the highest bidding team as a secret weapon! The quiz starts at 6.30 every Sunday night, it's free to enter and there's a \$40 bar tab to be won; come pick your wits against Stewart Islands finest!

Go Yellow! is nearly upon us. This is a **charity fund raiser for the Community Pool** on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July.

Dress A Lemon is first at 2.30pm. Kids can make the funniest lemon they can, either in school on the Friday or at home, bring them into the pub in the afternoon, the most imaginative or funniest lemon will win a yellow gift basket.

A **Scavenger Hunt** starts at 3pm. It's \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids with a \$100 prize for the winning team and bar snacks at 6pm. Registrations are being taken already, the first teams to register get a slight time advantage so come on down and get your names up on the board! The items this time will have a yellow theme so get your thinking caps on! **Yellow fancy dress** and themed teams are preferred; a yellow gift basket is available to the best costume.

The Sunday quiz will have a yellow flavour too, for this week only it is a gold coin donation to enter.

Ship to Shore will also have a range of yellow goodies too!!

Getting a bit bored with your skin? On the 12th August, Naith, Tim and Joline are coming down from Absolution in Christchurch to modify and improve you!! They will be **tattooing and piercing** in the pub from 11am to 4pm, bookings are not being taken but the tattoos will have to be fairly small to allow the maximum number of people to have a turn and you must also bring the design you require with you.

Prices will depend upon the size of your tattoo or the piercing you require, more details available from the guys on the day.

At 5pm there will the first Stewart Island **Tattoo Show!** It's free to enter, simply be here about 4.30pm, register in the category your tattoo falls into, and may the best ink win!

Ca\$h prizes are there for the best in show! Come along and see what all those Islanders are hiding under their Swannies and Gummies!

The Winter Buffet is most definitely back! People have been turning out in droves for Mark and Craig's succulent roasts and to die for seafood. Bookings are essential, I recommend booking for 6pm, that way you can join us in the bar for a relaxing happy hour beer (5-6.30pm) before diving into the food! Prices are \$17 for adults and half price for kids.



ban Globetrotter off-island adventures

Jess Kany recently traveled to Savannah, Georgia and had a rocking good time in the American South.



Last month I flew to Savannah, Georgia in the south-eastern US to attend the wedding of one of my closest friends. After an extremely pleasant flight (the personal movie screens with the choice of dozens of movies and TV programs and video games really help pass the time) I arrived in San Francisco International Airport.

The 11-hour layover there began with the jarring chaos of the US Customs area which features little hand-scrawled signs saying "VISITORS" hastily taped to a column with a wiggly arrow pointing vaguely to several long queues; surly airport security attendants yelling unintelligible directions angrily at hundreds of confused and exhausted world travellers; and a baggage claim belt that malfunctioned, became choked with everyone's luggage, and came to a screeching halt for no less than 35 minutes. No explanation, no baggage belt mechanics arriving on-scene, just hundreds of passengers awaiting their luggage -- some increasingly panicked as they had tight connections to make. What did *not* break down was the deafening blaring baggage belt alarm that I can actually still hear sometimes in my travel traumatized brain. A half an hour into this scene the mob mentality ruled and like crazed English football fans everyone started clambering up on the baggage belt trying to get inside the mouth and find their bags. One guy just started pulling suitcases out willy-nilly and literally throwing them out onto the floor, which made me grateful I had left my glass animal collection at home. This unruly behaviour finally prompted airport authorities to send mechanics to the rescue lest the suitcase thrower hurt his back and sue the place.

I spent several happy years living in San Francisco and still have friends there. My layover didn't get off to the best start but then I called an old friend and she picked me up and within an hour I had a hot shower and found myself in the city's infamous Haight-Ashbury neighborhood having some laughs over burgers and beers. After wandering around the shops of "The Haight" we went back to Michelle's apartment and ordered Chinese food for tea, then I grabbed a Supershuttle back to the airport (Supershuttle is a door-to-door bus service that operates at all hours between the airport and downtown SF, one way fare is about \$15).

An overnight flight across the country brought me to the main airport in



The airport in Charlotte held an exhibition called *Porchsitting* several years ago featuring these rocking chairs — at the end of it the travellers were so enamoured of the seats the airport kept them.

Charlotte, North Carolina. It's a big bustling airport acting as a major hub servicing the South-eastern seaboard. Which is why I was most charmed and impressed by the seating arrangements they have provided: rather than the usual benches and chairs, travellers can rest on one of the hundreds of quaint, painted white rocking chairs that line its halls! After hours of sleepless travel, Air New

Zealand wine and San Francisco pub beer and another overnight trip, it was a strange and wonderful vision for 6 in the morning. Rows of people from every walk of life — Rastafarians, businessmen clattering on laptops, mommas bouncing babies, backpackers, Asian tourists — all seated in the quintessential southern seat: rocking chairs.

I connected to a little plane and was met at Savannah

Liza's godfather, acclaimed photographer (the late) Jack Leigh, snapped this famous picture which covers the book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.



Airport by Liza who was thrilled that after nine years of promising to visit her beloved hometown (we met in Wyoming) I was making good on my word. Summertime in the deep South is no joke, and at 8 in the morning temperatures were nearing triple Fahrenheit digits. We went straight to breakfast; I ordered coffee although the locals seemed to favour Coca Cola on ice. Liza insisted I do as the Romans do and get the grits. "You'll want cheese and lots of butter with that," she advised. Grits, a mushy maize porridge, is an excellent medium for cheese and lots of butter and salt. Just in case my meal wasn't unhealthy enough, I had buttermilk biscuits and gravy along with the eggs and sausage.

Liza herself is true grits its acronymic meaning: **Girls Raised In The South** (a.k.a. Ya Ya Sisters or Sweet Potato Queens). Southern women are renowned for their charm, graciousness and hospitality and Liza was the perfect hostess. (There is a story of my grandmommy Bunny who resided in the deepest South — Florida — and one day opened the door to find a bunch of distant relatives on her porch laden with suitcases. "Well c'mon in darlins'!" she cooed, ushering them to guest rooms and preparing a big welcome meal for them. The relatives stayed for a week and returned to their home in the north, where they were horrified to find a "Return to Sender" letter from themselves in the mail; the letter of course was addressed to Bunny, stating their intentions to visit. Bunny had never embarrassed them or made them feel the least uncomfortable by letting on that their visit was a totally out of the blue shock.)

Savannah was the subject and setting of a famous book and movie —

"Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" (known to Savannahans simply as *the Book*). This was the most popular but not the only depiction of Savannah as a mysterious and somewhat creepy

(Continued on page 7)

Meet Sirocco, your friendly neighbourhood kakapo!

This unique parrot will be staying on Ulva Island next month
by Jeff Hall, Kakapo Team

Sirocco is one of only 86 kakapo in the world. The population is managed by the Department of Conservation on two pest free islands: Whenua Hou (Codfish Island) off Stewart Island, and Anchor Island in Dusky Sound Fiordland. Kakapo have increased from a population low of only 50 birds in 1995 and Sirocco was one of the first



chicks produced from the recovery effort over the past 11 years.

Why is Sirocco so “special” that we are able to display him to you and have

him on an island to himself? The answer dates back to when he was a three week old chick. He hatched in March 1997 with Zephyr, his proud mum to take care of him. Over the next couple of weeks when mum left the nest to feed and support Sirocco and his brother Tiwai; kakapo team staff could check on the chicks’ progress with regular weight measurements (see photo above). During this time staff discovered Sirocco was having respiratory problems and so he was moved to the hut to be hand-raised.

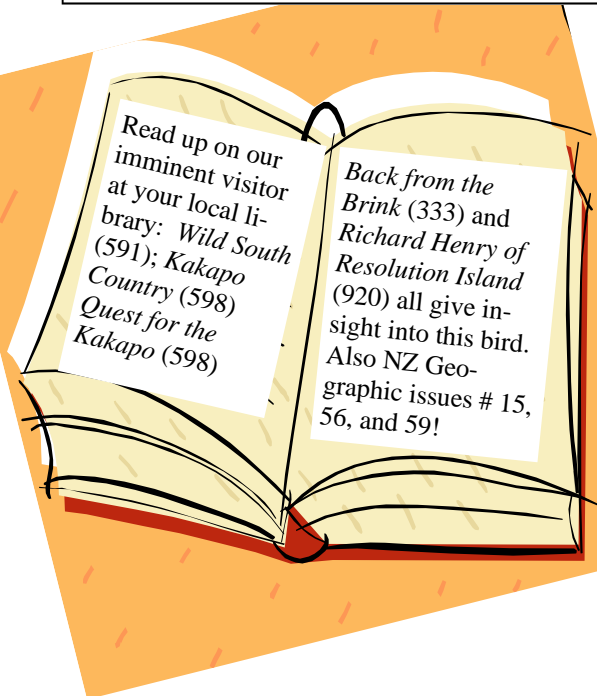
Kakapo chicks put on most of their adult weight during the first few months, and within two

months Sirocco weighed over 1.5kg. He was eventually released to roam around Whenua Hou in late November 1997. As a result of the intensive hand-rearing in the absence of other kakapo, he became quite “humanised”. Whilst his behaviour has become more kakapo-like with his advancing age; Sirocco still loves people and regularly visits the staff accommodation on Whenua Hou. This attribute - along with Sirocco’s genealogy - make him an ideal bird to display to people. Sirocco is one of 10 surviving offspring produced by his father Felix, and as such is part of a well represented branch of the kakapo family tree. However, with so few in number, every kakapo is valuable.



Male kakapo when ready to breed, create a “track and bowl” system from which they display and call (known as booming) to attract females for mating. In 2003 Sirocco set up a “track and bowl” for the first time signaling that he is capable of breeding, but he focused his intentions toward people instead of kakapo. We will return him to one of the “kakapo islands” prior to the summer breeding season to allow him to have an opportunity to develop a “track and bowl” and practice his booming with less human interaction.

Sirocco’s behaviour has made him a great bird for the public to view. We hope you enjoy seeing him as much as he enjoys seeing you, with the benefit that it is on his terms.



Read up on our imminent visitor at your local library: *Wild South Country* (598) *Kakapo Quest for the Kakapo* (598)

Back from the Brink (333) and *Richard Henry of Resolution Island* (920) all give insight into this bird. Also NZ Geographic issues # 15, 56, and 59!

This is a belated acknowledgement thanking Stewart island volunteers, women and men, for their help and assistance during my last few years living on Rakiura (my niece Jane called you all Noeline’s angels). How right she was.

I cannot name you all for I may forget

somebody. A group of friends formed a roster system and each did a weekly stint doing messages, bringing flowers and a variety of eats, filling my coal bucket and doing various other chores. They took me on tiki tours, to social occasions, quiz shows, and there was never a dull moment.

It was a wrench leaving home, but I knew it was inevitable. Life here in Takitumu Home is bearable and I have adapted.

Once again thank you one and all for your generosity, kindness, and the happy days you spent with me.
Arohanui,
Noeline Fife

Formal Consultation Begins on Representative Review

Stewart Islanders who think they would be disadvantaged by proposed changes to Environment Southland’s constituencies have until 4 August to make their views known.

The Council has adopted a proposed reorganisation scheme that would see the number of constituencies drop from seven to six.

Stewart Island would become part of the Invercargill/Rakiura Constituency, which includes Bluff as well as all of Invercargill – the area currently included within the Invercargill City Council boundary.

At present, the island is included in the Awarua Constituency. Its status as a separate ward for the Southland District Council would not change under this proposal.

Environment Southland floated two proposals during pre-consultation earlier this year, and used feedback to develop the single proposal that it has now released for public submissions.

Cr Ted Tapper said it had been “a nightmare job” to come up with constituency boundaries that not only reflected communities of interest but also met the Local Government Commission’s requirements for the ratio of councillors to citizens. “We could argue for a year and not come to a consensus,” he said.

Full details are on the web at www.es.govt.nz and will also be published in the July issue of the Council’s newsletter, *Enviroweek*.

People have until 4 August to make submissions.

Garth Barnesdale has shared these “Joy of Aging”:

The Senility Prayer: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference. ☺ My memory’s not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory’s not as sharp as it used to be. ☺ Reporters interviewing a 104 year old woman: “And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?” She simply replied, “No peer pressure.” ☺ I’ve sure gotten old! I’ve had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees. I’m half blind, can’t hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia and poor circulation, hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can’t remember if I’m 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver’s license.



The Nevine Quartet played for a packed house at the Wharfside on 3rd July. Thanks to Toi Rakiura Trust for bringing such lovely music to our ears! Some lucky budding violinists in the Bay had lessons with these NZ Symphony Orchestra musicians the following day.

For your information

I wish to advise members of this community that there is a plan for the “Town – Foreshore Upgrade” for you to view.

The plan has been placed on the Community Notice board in the bay and the Notice board outside the Museum/Council Office.

**Colleen Dawson,
Stewart Island Area Officer.**

STEWART ISLAND SINGLES’ BALL 7 pm 19th AUGUST

**Seafood dinner and Live music *definitely!*
Meet your soul mate *possibly!***

**Get your ticket now!
\$40 available from
Inv S.I. Flights 218-9129
S.I. Visitor Centre 219-1009
or Play it Again Records
218-6433
www.singlesball.co.nz**

CONGRATULATIONS

**New parents
Emma and Jeff
Welcome Lachlan!**



(Continued from page 4)

locale, its rich history steeped in voodoo culture and ghost stories, its houses looking a bit haunted, and the Spanish moss adding a gothic look to everything. There is real-life danger too: the crime rate is high as Liza's fiancée Ryan knows first-hand. Two years ago he and his friend were attacked in a park and his friend was shot in the leg. And the Spanish moss has hidden dangers too! I stopped to sniff some and Liza pulled me back, explaining that Spanish moss is home to millions of teeny red bugs (called, guess what, redbugs) that get in your nose and on your clothes. "I just hate to see it when tourists snip a bunch off and stuff it in their bags for a souvenir," she said.

She drove me around her hometown which is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen. The historic district is a patchwork of parks (known as squares – there are 24 in the downtown



Savannah home

area!) and exquisite old buildings. The trees drip with Spanish moss and the air is perfumed with lilies and magnolias. Most homes have a wrap-around porch, screened in upstairs porch, swinging seat on the front porch and rocking chairs abound. The homes are decorated like gingerbread houses with Easter egg pastels and white fancy trimmings. Every single house is a work of art – Liza parked in front of a place I expected would be selling tickets at the door as some sort of architectural museum, but she just whipped her keys out and went inside, "This is just where I grew up," she said.

Much of the credit for Savannah's historic preservation is due to the Savannah College of Art and Design which has bought many historically important buildings around the city and made them a part of the campus. As we drove around Liza pointed to many buildings and said "That's a SCAD."



Porch, Tybee Island

Despite the incredible beauty of the place, Savannah isn't just a pretty face. She is a working port city – enormous tankers and container ships move up and down the Savannah River all day. The riverfront's rustic alleys and stairs are not actually cobblestones but ballast from the centuries of ships coming and going from the mighty southern Port. The rubble was removed from the ships holds and tossed onto the waterfront, creating the bumpy riverfront walkways of today. The nightlife in Savannah is renowned throughout the country: Savannah is a big party town and has dozens of rollicking old Irish pubs and fun clubs to prove it. The St. Patrick's Day celebration is second biggest in the US only to Chicago. Liza and her friends have a big party every year and are famous for their green grits.

Tybee Island, the vacation spot for Savannah (and wedding site for Liza) is about 15 miles away. Tybee features the oldest lighthouse on the southern Atlantic, built in 1773. I love lighthouses so I made a pilgrimage to the Tybee Lighthouse with a dawn run (by 7 a.m. it was too hot for running). It was a magnificent building with a beautiful backdrop. The sea was churning with wild activity – enormous brown pelicans were dive-bombing into the water amidst a pod of dolphins which were jumping out of the water. It was mesmerizing watching the birds and fish trade places in a strange splashing synchronicity; in the distance enormous container ships glided by on their way to the port of Savannah.

Like any island, Tybee operates on *island time*. Tybee Time is spent rocking in rocking chairs on screened in upstairs porches, sipping mimosas and margaritas and sweet iced tea. Hours passed languidly in the humid morning, and then we'd pack our beach-

bag-chairs (canvass fold out chairs with big pockets for beach stuff and shoulder straps for transport) and head to the famous Tybee Beach. After setting up our sandy camp and applying sun lotion, we decided we needed a cooling beverage. Wearing only our swimming togs and flip-flops we marched through the blinding white heat of the sand and sun into a dark little bar down a side-street. Like many of the Tybee establishments, the Wind Rose Café seems frozen in the fifties, the greasy paper menu features fried oyster sandwiches and corn dogs and fried flounder sandwiches, and prices start at \$2.50 which is remarkably inexpensive for a US restaurant.

"What can I do for you darlins'?" says the bartender. Savannahans pride themselves on their friendliness and charm and even in the dodgiest looking place you find that sugary sweet attitude. Everyone says *y'all* and calls you *darlin'*; *honey*, *sugar* or *sweetpea*, and I mean everyone, not just Liza's



The South Atlantic's oldest lighthouse

lovely grandmamma and great auntie. (Even in their eighties these grand Southern belles flirt and party like modern-day Scarlett O'Haras. Liza's grandma was playing the bongos at 3 in the morning with a room full of inebriated people more than half her age, and dancing up a storm at every bar we attended.)

We ordered our fried fare to-go from the Wind Rose and then went to Skippers which serves up frozen daiquiris to-go (the bartender rightly recommended white Russian – banana combo). On our return to the beach we noted we weren't the only patrons of Skippers, most everyone seemed to be sipping from a white Styrofoam cup like ours.

Spring breakers were out in force, university students on their vacation were shrieking in the waves or sprawled in groups around big coolers of beer. We watched a bronzed muscle-bound guy covered with tattoos strut down the beach in shorts and cowboy boots dragging a suitcase-on-wheels spilling over with ice and cans of Budweiser.

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(Continued from page 7)

(The combination of boot heels and suitcase wheels made interesting tracks in the sand). People-watching is always a great diversion, but on Tybee after a few Skippers specialties I found myself leaning back in my backpack-chair enthralled by the pelicans which look like pterodactyls and pass endlessly back and forth in perfect vee formations.

Our week in Tybee culminated in the wedding, which was held on the famous Tybee Pier. Security guards were posted to keep the public beachgoers from the private wedding function, but a drunken redneck sporting a Kentucky waterfall, tight cut-off jeans and a giant sunburnt beer gut breached the line of defence and helped himself to food, drink, and a personalized koozie (every southern household kit includes a basket of koozies for insulat-

ing cold drinks against the heat – Liza made “Go Maples” koozies for her die-hard ice hockey fan of a Canadian husband). “Thanks y’all,” the wedding crasher boasted on his way past the groom, who couldn’t swing a punch as he was walking his grandma up the stairs. The good news is the moron was caught when he went back for seconds and the wedding party was treated to an arrest: handcuffs, cussing and all. This was one of the few interactions I observed in which nobody called anybody “Darlin’.”

Driving back to Savannah from Tybee one notices old wooden shrimp boats lining the waterways and tied up along the dozens of wharves, it’s all very Forrest Gump which is natural as the movie was filmed in Savannah (the bench Forrest sat upon is now in a museum). I didn’t see any box of chocolates on my stay but I did sample many baskets of fried oysters and buffalo

shrimp (spicy speciality). I am a food pig and Southern cuisine is wonderfully naughty and very interesting, with Creole and Cajun influences. I have done a fair bit of travelling in the US and rate Savannah as one of the best cities I have ever visited. A life-long resident, Liza insists it is a wonderful place to live. I spent my last day at Liza’s new house doing what Savannahans do to an art form: *porch-sitting*.

At the airport, a soothing voice with that down-home southern drawl got on the loudspeaker and announced, “Your airplane is ready to board y’all. Don’t be shy, honey darlins’, just come on down to Gate five.” Reluctantly I got up from my rocking chair and left the lovely South, thinking, *certain big city airports could learn a thing or two from this place.*



Paua Babies

A recent chat with paua guru Nicolette Thompson revealed the fascinating process that has been unfolding at the paua hatchery... Nicolette, Andy Elliot and Tracy Hamilton have been busy at the Horseshoe Bay wharf hatchery raising pauas in an effort to re-stock Paua Area 5 which includes Fiordland, the Catlins and Stewart Island. Last year 15,000 little pauas were put back into the sea (5,000 in each sector). This month Paul Young (“P.Y.”) and Andy placed 40,000 baby pauas in Rakiura waters. Their lives began 10 months ago when Nicolette, using brood stock (the parents) fertilized paua eggs.



Andy at V tank with bag of wee pauas

“girls.”) The adult brood stock is separated by sex and placed in tanks. With a chemical treatment that changes the PH balance in the water, Nic causes them to spawn. They release clouds of eggs and sperm through their respiratory holes into the water.

“Sometimes the water goes white with sperm and you can’t even see the paua,” said Nic. She then siphons out the eggs and manually adds the paua sperm (“If you add too much they explode,” she explained.) She checks under a microscope to make sure the eggs are fertilized. They hatch 24 hours later as teensy swimming larvae and they are kept in larva tanks for a week.



Nicolette with “her babies”

The sex of the paua is determined by the colour of their gonads (when shucking them one notes green or white “guts” — green is for

“To the naked eye, they look like a dot,” said Nic. But under a microscope, she can see a tiny disc with cilia. Over the first week of its life, the paua grows a wee shell

(Continued on page 9)

Welcome to



THE GALLEY

S.I.N.s latest feature will bring you recipes and cooking tips. If you have a favourite you’d like to share, send it in!

Noeline Fife’s “never fail” oyster soup:

Make a roux sauce or however you make a white sauce. Place oysters and their liquid in a separate saucepan. Have the roux base boiling and then bring the oysters just to a boiling point, add to soup and serve.



In honour of this month’s Globetrotter (and because I notice that Ship to Shore stocks buttermilk from time to time).

“Down-home” buttermilk fried chicken:

Cut four boneless skinless chicken breasts into finger-size strips and place in bowl. Pour enough buttermilk over to cover them, then add generous amounts of crushed garlic, a few dashes of Worcester sauce, a sprinkle of Cajun spice (or dash of Tabasco). Marinate for at least two hours or overnight, stirring occasionally. Heat a cm deep of oil in skillet until smoking hot. Mix a couple cups of flour with two teaspoons of baking powder. Dip chicken pieces in flour then add to pan and turn heat down a bit. Brown until crispy, each side about 4-5 minutes. Place on paper towel or newspaper to drain oil. Eat. (Dipped in mayonnaise if you want to be really piggy.)

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and foot. Nic then places them into the "V" tanks (named for their shape). These tanks have been treated so they have a film of diatoms (brown algae). A happy baby will settle on this growth to feed and morph into a "crawling paua." After ten months, the "dot" has grown to a pebble-sized paua with a blue shell. (They don't all survive, of 100,000 baby pauas only 10,000 make it.) Nic made bags from shade cloth and hundreds of pauas (housed in an adult shell) are put in the bags and placed in the sea by volunteer fishermen. (Before they're taken to the sea they are tested for disease.) If all goes smoothly, in 8-10 years the baby will grow to be a "fitter" (legal size), and still identifiable as it keeps a tell-tale bit of baby blue baby shell on its grown-up shell.

WHAT'S NEW from the DEN of the STEWART ISLAND LIONS CLUB ?

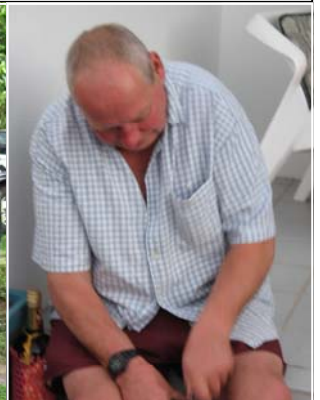
New office bearers were elected at the annual "change over" dinner held at the South Seas Hotel on July 5.
 President for 2006/07: David Squire;
 Secretary: Anita Geeson;
 Treasurer: Jon Spraggon;
 BBQ Convenors: Ken Geeson and Wayne Frew.

The recent departure from the island of several members has left numbers in the pride somewhat depleted. If you are interested in attending a meeting and finding out what

it is that Lions members get up to contact one of the above. Visitors are most welcome at meetings. The August meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 August; 7:00 p.m. at the hotel.

Forthcoming projects include hosting the entrants of the Hotelier Association fishing competition on the week-end of July 30 – August 1, catering for the supper at the 'Singles Ball' on August 19 and holding a street collection for Ronald McDonald house on Fri.Sept.1 as well as weekly delivery of meals-on-wheels to senior citizens.

Club members are willing to cater for BBQ type meals and BBQ'S are available for hire for private functions.



Stewart Island does Rarotonga

Armed with Hawaiian shirts and a thirst for umbrella drinks, more than two dozen locals invaded Rarotonga this month. The siege lasted more than a week. Cook Island officials report that the place is now officially out of gin.





On Wednesday, 26th July the library is having a debutante ball to

present all of its new books and DVDs! Pat, Jenny and I have been burning the midnight oil getting more than over 150 new books all dressed up (book covers, pockets, cards and spine labels) for their presentation to the community.

We will extend our hours that day from 2 to 5 pm, so come by and see our great new collection which includes dozens of maritime, craft, cookery, photography, history, meteorology, Maori, gardening, wildlife, sport and adventure books. From pool hustling to hydroponics to terrorism

to sharks, we have just about every subject covered. We have a book about bats, we poetry books, we even have a book about a bat who writes poems! Come see if Ken Ring can really predict NZ weather by the moon; study up on dragons, learn how the Yupiks make kayaks, plan to build a treehouse, follow spearfishermen off oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, or learn to make venison sausage. I'm telling you, we have more books than you could shake a stick at!

We will be doing some significant weeding to make room for all of our new books which we have obtained



thanks to Weedbusters, COGS, Toi Rakiura,

and plants (weeds) are *the* greatest

threat to New Zealand's biodiversity. People play a large part in spreading environmental weeds, often without knowing it, and Weedbusters aims to educate people and raise awareness to turn this problem around.

The Halfmoon Bay School are the biggest weedbusters on the island. Annually, they plant pingao on bathing beach, working with DOC to get rid of the marram grass.

On a beautiful, warm, winter Monday (22nd May), the Halfmoon Bay school went to the beach. The school were on their annual adventure to weed and plant pingao on the Bathing Beach dune. This is the third year that the school has been planting pingao on Bathing Beach and some of the pre-

and generous donations from various individuals. We don't have gorse growing in the shelves but we do have a few books that are facing retirement. Some will end up in our book sale, and some we will keep in "stacks" in the back office.

Weedbusters gave us over a thousand dollars' worth of books and DVDs. We are thrilled that Eammon nudged the money in our direction, it was well spent. Thanks to Sharon Pascoe for facilitating the order and to Brent Beaven for posing in the accompanying photo.

In popular fiction, we have *Turning Angel*, the new book by Greg Iles; *Ireland Awakening*, Edward Rutherford's sequel to *Dublin: Foundation*; Philippa Gregory's *The Constant Princess*; *Cell*, the new Stephen King thriller; *Kitty* by

Deborah Challinor, and Marilynne Robinson's Pulitzer-prize winning *Gilead*. For Western fans we now have the Pete Dexter's *Deadwood*. We also have the whole Julian Stockwin Thomas Kydd maritime adventure series up to the latest *Tenacious*. William McCloskey, who wrote the excellent non-fictional account of fishing called *Our Fathers' Work*, also wrote a popular fictional trilogy about crab fishing on Alaska's Bering Sea.

Our Talking Book section has doubled — we offer CD and cassette tape format.

Our DVD and VHS library continues to grow. Thanks to DOC we now have more incredible documentaries—they will be available on 26th July. DOC also gave us the educational *Hard Hat Harry and*

(Continued on page 11)

Book boost for library
by Brent Beaven

On Wednesday 12th July, DOC donated approximately \$1100 worth of books and DVDs about the natural world to the HMB library. We hope that this will provide an enjoyable and educational, resource that is available for everyone to access.

The books were donated by the Weedbusters fund. What is Weedbusters? Weedbusters is about working together to reduce the threat of weeds to New Zealand's natural environment. Weeds are one of the greatest threats to the environment but together we can make a difference.

Weedbusters is a weeds awareness and education programme that aims to protect New Zealand's environment from the increasing weed problem. Pest animals

vious years plants are really taking off, with the largest measuring half a metre across. This year, the school travelled by bus, courtesy of Stewart Island experience, to the nursery where they had a look around and a talk about what the nursery does.

While some of the pupils knew that the nursery provided plants for people's gardens (as well as for roadsides and sand dunes), over half of the school didn't realise that they could visit on Wednesday mornings and take away a plant for a gold coin donation.

The nursery then donated one plant of their choice to each student, either for the school grounds or for them to take home. After finding and gathering up pingao plants, the troops got bussed to Bathing Beach, where they spent the rest of the morning planting pingao, ripping out marram, finding and counting the surviving

pingao from previous years and just having fun in the sand. At the end of the day, Bathing Beach dune had about 50 new pingao plants added to the existing 24. Bathing Beach had previously had the marram sprayed using Gallant (a grass specific herbicide). This had successfully killed almost all of the marram on the beach and this method of spraying and then replanting with pingao is exactly the method that DOC is using to restore dunes throughout the rest of Stewart Island. This year, the team has almost completely removed the marram from all of Doughboy Bay and is treating marram across several 100 hectares of Mason Bay. Once re-vegetated in pingao and sand tussock, Mason Bay will be a sight to behold.

Thank you Halfmoon Bay School for a job well done!

New Face in the Undergrowth

by Kari Beaven



There is a new face around town, and likely to be popping in and out of unlikely places. Alina Thiebes has joined the Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project as a temporary project assistant.



Over the next few months, Alina will be helping the important move from our major trap set-up and pest knock-down to long-term maintenance of low rat and possum numbers throughout the Restoration Area. This long-term maintenance will ensure the project continues throughout the years to come and will be the key to building numbers of native wildlife around our homes and gardens.

Her aim is to stay one step ahead of volunteer trappers, ensuring trap lines are cleared of re-growth and well marked (and well sign-posted with safety signs), broken rat-traps are replaced and possum traps are cleaned and well lubricated. That way, trappers can make

the most of the time you offer to removing the threats to our unique environment.

Alina and her partner are on the Island for the winter, looking forward to making the most of the time they have here. Look out for her around the Bay or along local tracks.



Alina shows the kids a possum trap.



During their week on bush safety, the Rugrats learned how to be safe around rat traps: they put their hands behind their backs and "Don't touch!"

We also looked at possum traps and introduced them to Craka wearing his working muzzle. They each thought up reasons why dogs can be a risk to native wildlife in national parks and we talked about Craka having a special permit because he's trained to work with kiwi and to wear his protective muzzle.



(Continued from page 10)

the Pearls of Wisdom which was filmed in Pater-son's Inlet and features a talking cod. It is hilari-ous, kids will love it and adults in a silly frame of mind could end up giggling at the antics on-screen. Kath Johnson recently donated some kids' movies.

NZ author Sheila Natusch has kindly donated many of her books to both the Halfmoon Bay School library and to the Community Library. *Wild Fare for Wilderness Foragers* is wonderful.

Our musicology section has expanded signifi-cantly. Helen Bissland's donation of music ency-clopaedias has complemented our burgeoning col-lection which includes a beautiful book on Maori musical instruments, a history of Maori music (with CD), a talking book on Chopin, a CD of na-tive birdsong, and a Bob Dylan biography DVD.

Thanks to recent donors of books including Donna and Gareth Hamilton, Loraine Hansen, Pat King, and Vicki Coats.

Happy Reading, Jess



**STEWART ISLAND
GARDEN CIRCLE**



Invites you to a
SHELL CRAFT WORKSHOP
to be held at the Fire Station on 5th August
from 10.00. - Shared Lunch.

It would be helpful if you could bring clean shells,
pieces of driftwood for flower stalks, flat stones.
Polystyrene balls if you want to make shell heads
or hangers. PLUS Imagination and enthusiasm.



The next meeting will be held at
the home of Raylene Waddell.
at 2.0 on 10th August.



**WINTER WARMERS
for SENIOR CITIZENS**

SOUTH SEAS HOTEL
And

STEWART ISLAND LIONS CLUB
Have begun their weekly
MEALS-ON-WHEELS service

Delivery 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Menu – “Cooks Choice.”

CRIBBAGE Meeting at the Hotel
7:30pm Wednesday 26th July

SHIP TO SHORE

Remember your loved ones' birth-
day/special day or “just because” and
send **flowers**. We are now taking
orders for Jane's Florist in Invercar-
gill. (Jane's florist is in the foyer of
Farmers/Stewarts building.) Orders
in by 10am and flowers will arrive on
the 1pm flight. We will deliver or
you can pick up at the shop.

In advance we would like to apolo-
gise for any inconvenience on **Tues-**
day 25th July. We are having new
counters fitted and will be **closing**
at 3.30pm.

Sometime at the end of August we
will be having our very own “**Lotto**”
installed. We hope to capitalize on
good publicity as much as we can for
the Island. We will be suggesting a
local draw and a real fun day of it.
WATCH THIS SPACE

Hope everyone is keeping warm this
winter — remember we still have our
Hot Soup and Toastie, Monday to
Friday for only \$5. Hot Muffins and
Scones on the counter and Custard
Squares on a semi regular basis,
The two new ladies in the kitchen
are cooking up a storm!

**The Stewart Island
Community Library**

proudly presents...
NEW BOOKS! Over 150 of
them! They will be ready
for check-out on Wednesday
26th July. Library hours
will be extended on that day
so stop by any time
between 2 and 5pm

*Craft and coffee
get-togethers*
**Mondays 2:30 at the
Church Hill Café
Whale Room**

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

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

12 issues to an Oban address \$24

12 issues to other New Zealand address \$30

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