



Island Times, February 2014 Quarantine Island/ Kamau taurua

**Welcome to our new Keepers
Gordon and Candy Douglas...**



As the very new Keepers of Quarantine Island we are having a ball! We seemed to have gales from both North and South for the first two weeks and outboard difficulties led to some hard rowing but we're now enjoying some glorious summer weather!

We care for Jackstan and Adam who are both enjoying the new environment and especially like the boat crossings.

Fostering children / young people has been an important part of our lives for nearly all of our 37 years of marriage. I come from a teaching background and Candy has worked as a Registered Nurse mainly in Mental Health settings.

We both enjoy the outdoors, small boats and kayaks and we're enjoying sharing this very special place with passing boaties, and the various visiting groups.

A special thanks to the St Martin Island Community who have made us feel very welcome and have been generous with their support as we settle into this new situation.

...and a huge thank you to previous keepers Wayne Johnson and Anna Hughes for their wonderful

contribution. It's hard to believe they were on the Island for only a year given everything they achieved!

As well as taking on all the day-to-day challenges of looking after visitors to the island and managing the day-to-day work, they helped SMIC upgrade and re-energise the website www.quarantineisland.org.nz; organised a working bee and workshop to build a new permaculture vegetable garden. They organised a DCC subsidised 'Composting Made Easy' workshop during which a huge hot compost pile was made and has supplied the island with some great much needed food growing soil. Sponsorship of the amazing Zing Bokashi Compost system is fantastic as an ongoing (rat discouraging) contribution to producing more great soil.

They identified much needed repairs for the cottage and got these underway; organised the building of 6 beautiful macrocarpa bench seats (funded by Lyndall Hancock and built and installed by Polytechnic students), improved the induction material for new keepers, improved health and safety practices....

Eli (6) and Niwha (3) brought their delightful energy and smiles to the Island. We are



delighted that Wayne is staying on the SMIC Council and the family intend to keep joining us at our monthly open days.

From Anna "It was a real privilege to spend 2013 as the Keepers of Quarantine Island. We loved adventuring around the island and spending lots of time on the sea. Island life was busy with two young boys, lots of visitors, school, playcentre and contract work off the island as well as the high standard of cleaning and maintenance that we chose to keep. It was a real thrill to get Lyndall's seats in and to extend the vegie garden.



Wow, that hot compost, liquid fertiliser - seaweed and comfrey grew very impressive broccoli and cauliflower. We miss lots of things about island life and it's good to know the island is not going anywhere and is in good hands! We're keen to support Gordon and Candy as much as we can as we know first hand that simply living on the island is challenging in itself!"



What's new?

Lillian Brown - Internship position

This year we are delighted to have Lillian from the Salvation Army to help facilitate our processes as a community.

Lillian's year-long part-time internship is provided through Internal Affairs. The stated aim is "to prepare programmes for visitors to Quarantine Island, gather materials and resources for use for camps and retreats and to facilitate reflection within the members on their skills as educators and carers for the island and its visitors and on their roles in the community"



Get involved!

2014 Open Community days are usually held on the Island on the last Saturday of the month. Come for the day or overnight. Help with the tree revegetation, maintenance and other projects. Enjoy good company and food in beautiful surroundings. Contact the Keepers for more details on 478 0874 or 027 7777 874
Email: keeper@quarantineisland.org.nz

In addition, you are welcome to join the SMIC Council for meetings off the island. These are held every second Thursday of the month – Feb 13, March 13, April 10, May 15, June 12, Jul 10th, Aug 14th, Sept 11th, October 9th, Nov 13th, hosted by Lyndall, 5:30 meet and eat, 1 hour for business; then reflection. Contact Joe for further information joehunter@extra.co.nz 027 222 1073

2014 SMIC Council:

Peter Matheson (President), Joe Hunter (Chair), Francine Vella, Lyndall Hancock, Jim Fyfe, Peter and Barbara Creed, Wayne Johnson, Alex King, Tracey Frisbee (on leave) Birgit Heller.

We also welcome Andrea Vaughan as our new Island Council treasurer and thank Francine Vella for all her work over the long time it has taken to find someone able to take on this role.

Key dates in Feb-April:

- Training Day for Relief Keepers Sat. Feb 22 (Anna, on the Island). This day will train you up to relieve the Keepers during their time off. It is a great opportunity to get to know the Island more intimately and support both the Resident Keepers and the St Martin Island Community. The training will include: boat basics (1:1 practical boat training will happen at a later date), how to Welcome and support Lodge guests during their stay, managing the everyday care of and systems on the island and a bit about the Community as Kaitiaki. Please rsvp to Anna to secure your spot (places are limited) annajoanhughes@gmail.com.
- Visioning meeting Mon 3rd March 5.30 at the Gathering Centre Knox Church (Lillian to facilitate) open to wider community. This is our time to develop and explore our community culture, embracing Ecology, Heritage, Spirituality and Community.
- Closed Community Retreat April (Lillian to facilitate) 3 days - Fri 25 April, 3 pm Anzac Day to Sun 27, 12 pm.



Saturday, Feb 15 at 12:00pm

St. Clair Beach, Dunedin

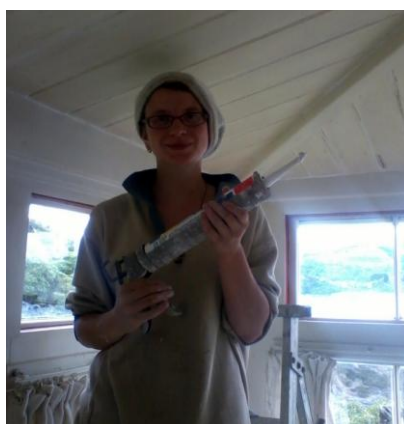
St Martin Island Community has joined the nation-wide campaign saying 'no' to drilling for fossil fuels. There are many reasons. Shell, Anadarko and the other fossil fuel companies already have enough discovered reserves on their books to push global warming to five times beyond two degrees – the so-called 'safe' limit that world governments have agreed to. Beyond two degrees the climate will become increasingly unstable.

We know we are very dependent on fossil fuels now; this needs to change for the good of future generations – we seek to reduce our own carbon footprint and call for investment in a low carbon economy. This is where we want to see job creation; not in a dead end industry. Deep sea drilling also poses grave risks to our beautiful environment, industries, and quality of life.

SMIC received an abatement notice from the Otago Regional Council directing us to remove our 'No Drill' sign because it is illegal 'advertising' on a jetty. The issue has now broadened to include freedom of speech. We are appealing the abatement notice in the Environment Court.



Thanks to our many helpers!



St Martin Island Community is a small charitable trust that has helped care for the Island for more than 54 years. There are many ways to contribute to our work on (and off) the Island. We welcome offers of help!

At the moment, we particularly need help to weed around the young native trees.

Could you help with this— or better yet, organise a group of friends to help?

If so, please contact Gordon and Candy on 478 0874 or 027 7777 874



www.quarantineisland.org.nz

Facebook: St Martin Island Community

