



Island Times, July 2014

Quarantine Island/ Kamautaurua

What's been happening on the Island?

Recent visitors Over the Winter months, the main visitors staying overnight have been school groups participating in programmes at Marine Studies: Fiordland College, Northern Southland, East Otago High School, Waimate High School.

A group of 44 came with DOC to plant trees and celebrate 'Island Biodiversity' day, and got temporarily marooned due to a southerly squall.

Gordon and Candy have been using the quiet time to do some **much-needed maintenance on the lodge and cottage**, with help from Noel, Bernie and Jackstan. Windows have been puttied and painted, insulation has been installed over the bunk rooms and the floor in the 'back porch' of the lodge has been replaced. This will reduce drafts and give a level floor.

In July, Lyndall, Francine, Gordon and Jimmy attended the Portobello Winter Market as part of 'Peninsula day'. They told people about the Island and launched the updated Island brochure.



Friends of Quarantine Island

It's fantastic that we have so many people who join us as volunteers and enjoy participation. Please be aware that you can help our community even further by making a more formal commitment, becoming a member. Once your membership has been approved by the community council, your subs also entitle you to vote at the AGM.

Subscriptions are now due for 2014, please pay \$20 per individual, or \$30 per family or organisation online through our ANZ account: St Martin Island Community Inc a/c 06 0901 0037185 000 with subscription and your name in the reference code. Or pay by cheque to SMIC, PO Box 5478, Dunedin.

Do let us know if there are friends of yours who would like to join!

Sun 10th August 1pm SMIC AGM at The Matheson Room, Knox Church

Along with cake and a cuppa!!

Note: At the AGM we would like to make a minor change to our constitution to bring us in line with current financial practice. It will be moved that the current wording in Control of Funds 7a is amended as follows: "True accounts of all income and expenditure, will be kept by the treasurer and ~~audited~~ presented annually at the end of the financial year at the AGM."

Keep in touch

Check our website www.quarantineisland.org.nz

Join us on Facebook: *St Martin Island Community*

Contact the Secretary to be added to our email list
sec.smic@gmail.com

There are lots of ways you can help, on and off the Island. Here are some of them:

Hunting invaders!!

Keep your eyes peeled for ivy and other 'pest' plants. Mark these by tying some bright ribbon around a nearby tree, so we can find them easily in the Spring. This is when they will start to grow more vigorously.

Why is ivy considered a pest? It is very vigorous, can tolerate most conditions and easily smother other plants. It is hard to kill ; we need to poison it and dispose of the remains carefully.



Ivy (Hedera Helix)

Weeding around the young native trees. Long grass and other weeds can take up valuable nutrients and stop the rain reaching the young trees.

Beach clean up. Unfortunately, rubbish washes up on the Island's shores. Low tide is a good time to grab a sack from the keepers and do a beach clean up. Notice what types of rubbish are most common.

Lodge 'Spring'Clean While groups using the lodge take responsibility for cleaning up after their stay, we appreciate any help to keep the lodge spic and span.

Welcoming and guiding visitors at open days. In addition to the monthly SMIC open days, sometimes we host bigger events, in partnership with other groups. Then we really need help – showing visitors around the Island, telling them a

bit about the island's history and ecology, making cups of tea, ensuring everyone has a safe and enjoyable visit.

Moving materials/Labouring

Sometimes there are building materials we need to bring over. We welcome all offers of help with heavy work like this.



Important jobs that can be done from the mainland

Contributing to newsletters, developing education materials, fundraising applications, writing submissions, building and maintaining relationships with groups with similar values and concerns

Creating a diverse native forest

Does it seem like we plant quite slowly on the Island? Well, it's true! There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, it's a tough environment for young trees to get established. The island is swept by salty, drying winds and we actually don't get a lot of rainfall. We need to know we can look after the young seedlings for the first couple of years, weeding and watering if it's dry.

Secondly, we really want to create a diverse forest. Not only does a diverse forest look more interesting, trees and shrubs flower and fruit at different times, providing a food source for birds and insects over an extended time. More biodiversity! Some trees are more vigorous than others – if we planted them all at the

same time, these trees would out-compete the slower growing trees. Instead, we use the fast growing trees, like pittosporum and ngaio to create shelter for less vigorous ones. Eventually, we also need to cut back the more vigorous ones, to provide space for the slower growing species.

When we do plant, we look for suitable shelter, and moist soil. We use water crystals and fertiliser pellets to give the new trees the best start, then follow this up with a couple of year's TLC....With hundreds of young trees, you can see why we need the help of so many volunteers!



Ken Mason has helped with the revegetation project for many years with support from key groups Forest and Bird, the Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC) and Students for Environmental Action (SEA).



Update on the Married Quarters



Thanks to Lotteries Environment and Heritage and the Dunedin Heritage Fund for funding structural engineering reports and a fire protection plan for the MQ.

We are delighted to have the structural engineering reports for the interior now, and a fire protection plan.

We have quotes from builders and are now applying for external grants. There will be many opportunities to help with physical jobs, like bringing on materials, digging and labouring. We will also need helpers at our special MQ open day on **Sunday 28th September.**



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 You can also find us on Facebook: St Martin Island Community

In addition, you are welcome to join the SMIC Council for meetings off the island. These are held every second Thursday of the month – 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@xtra.co.nz 027 222 1073

Key dates August – October

Sun. 10th August 1pm SMIC AGM at The Matheson Room, Knox Church

Sat. 30 August Community/open day

Sat. 27 September Community/open day

Sun. 28 September Special heritage open day/fundraiser for MQ 11am -3pm (Contact the SMIC secretary if you can help)!

Sat. 25 October Community/open day

2014 SMIC Council:

Joe Hunter (Chair), Francine Vella, Lyndall Hancock, Jim Fyfe, Birgit Heller, Noel Johnston, Kristen Bracey (Secretary), Andrea Vaughan (Treasurer), Gordon and Candy Douglas (Keepers)



Council members are a versatile, hard-working bunch!

*The SMIC Council have been reading and reflecting on ideas in **Nikki Harre's Psychology for a better world: Strategies to inspire sustainability**. Key ideas are that people are happiness seekers, social beings and want to 'be good'. People are more open to change when they experience positive emotions.*

Niki challenges us to use this understanding of psychology to work with people's 'desire to be good'. She suggests deep level discussion of values and moral issues; and that we work on sustainability on three levels – the self through our lifestyle; organisation and community; and on the civic level.

Niki says " Human moral intuition and reasoning can work for us in promoting a better world if we are able to convincingly frame sustainability issues as moral issues. This will make it possible to create collective rules about how to manage scarce resources fairly".

There is lots of food for thought in Niki's book, that we are keen to discuss with others. She shares her ideas in a short video, also.

<http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/our-staff/academic-staff/niki-harre/psychologyforabetterworld.html>

*The SMIC Council have recently been considering recommendations made by **Ignite Consultants**, a charitable organisation started by University of Otago students, who were winners of the 2014 Otago Regional Community Trustpower Awards. Ignite has helped by providing an outsider's perspective on SMIC's strategic vision and operational structures.*

*We want to take more time to consult and reflect; **you** can participate in this at our open weekends. If we feel changes to our constitution (written more than 50 years ago!) would better reflect the Trust as it operates now, after this period of consultation and reflection, we will hold a **special meeting on Thurs 9th October to approve these changes.***

***Prior to that**, proposed constitutional changes will be reviewed at the SMIC council meeting on **Thurs 11th September**. Any proposed changes to the constitution will then be circulated to members, so please make sure the secretary has all your contact details. Following the special meeting in October, the revised constitution will be circulated to all members. If the SMIC Council feel we need more time to consider changes, we will take this. We don't want to rush the process.*