Over the sea to Stewart Island

Separated from the South Island by wind-tossed Foveaux Strait, Stewart Island is New Zealand's third largest, and most southern inhabited island. Its 'twin' name is Rakiura, 'The Island of the Glowing Sky'. In 1907, botanist Dr Leonard Cockayne described Stewart Island as 'an actual piece of the primeval world'. Ninety-five years later, most of this somewhat modified 'primeval world' became New Zealand's fourteenth national park, Rakiura National Park.

▼ TEWART Island has a long history. Evidence of the first human habitation - though it did not turn out to be permanent - is dated to c1270. Five hundred years later, in March 1770, Lieutenant James Cook sailed the Endeavour around its southern coasts, resolving the question as to whether or not New Zealand was part of a great 'Southern Continent'. Europeans were there some thirty years before the first colonists landed at Wellington and Auckland, and the earliest permanent occupation preceded the foundation of shore whaling stations. Even so, when trading posts and whaling settlements became parts of an organised and progressive colony, Stewart Island alone remained outside that development. An unwilling Government finally purchased it from Maori in 1864.

Although the first permanent European pioneers were seeking a home rather than a site for commercial or agriculture enterprise, Stewart Island has had eras of sealing and whaling, shipbuilding, sawmilling, tin mining, farming, fishing and tourism. Of these, only fishing and tourism have survived.

Dr Basil Howard's *Rakiura* (1940, reprinted 1974), based on his 1934 University of Otago Litt.D. thesis, remains the

classical reference book on Stewart Island's history. Since *Rakiura* was published, however, sealer John Boultbee's diary has come to light, plus other historical material. Much of this new information can be found in John Hall-Jones's well-illustrated *Stewart Island Explored* (1994).

The Hocken Library has extensive holdings relating to Stewart Island and its satellite islands, and the following lists of books, theses, pamphlets and periodicals provide an introductory guide to these holdings.

Maori

In spite of scattered traces of occupation, little is known about early Stewart Island Maori. The following publications contain some information:

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1650–1850, 1998.

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European settlement

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Rosshavet Whaling Company's Kaipipi Shipyard (Album 54)

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Sealing and Whaling

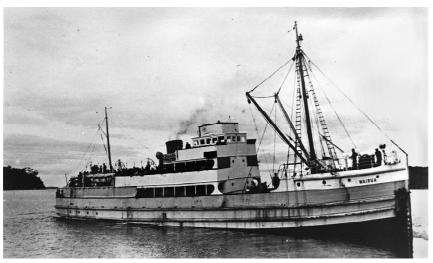
Sealing, first, and then whaling were an integral part of Stewart Island life for more

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- Starke, June, ed. *Journal of a Rambler: The Journal of John Boultbee*, 1986.
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Natural History

Scientists have studied Stewart Island's unique and fascinating vegetation, together with the wildlife it supports, for more than a century. In addition, the unacceptable modification by introduced mammals, and the irretrievable loss of native wildlife have also prompted many research and conservation reports.

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Anon. Stewart Is Natural History. Key to trees and shrubs, 1977, 1980.

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Evans, G.R.& Fine, N.M. Resource Survey of Northern Stewart Is, Part I, Indigenous Grasslands, 1976.

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Anon. Rakiura, Gem of the South: A visitors guide..., c1972.

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Archives and manuscripts

Check Hakena for archives and manuscripts under headings Stewart Island or Rakiura. Of special interest is a copy of extracts from Thomas Shepherd's 'Journal, March 1826 to May 1826', with a valuable early description of Stewart Island; in G.C.Thomson collection (ARC-0055, MS-0440/06).

Barlow, Maida L. Papers relating to Olga Sansom 1686–1991. Olga Sansom (1900– 1989) was a third generation Stewart Islander, former director of the Southland Museum, and author of books about Stewart Island and the islanders. Her extensive archival collection, given to the Hocken Library by her daughter, Maida Barlow, includes newspaper clippings, biographical information of early settlers and families, photographs, places and place-names, ships and shipwrecks, sawmills, schools and teachers, Stewart Island County Council, shipbuilding and fishing.(ARC-0135)

Natusch. Sheila, R.H. Traill Papers (Misc-MS-1661), and photocopies of his diaries, 1925–1981 (AG-816). Robert (Roy) Henry Traill (1892–1989), grandson of the Lutheran missionary, Johann Wohlers, was ranger on Stewart Island for 33 years.

Maps

The Hocken holds several copies of British Hydrographic Charts of the survey carried out at Stewart Island and the Foveaux Strait region by Captain J.L. Stokes and officers of HMS Acheron, 1849–51:

Paterson Inlet and Port William, surveyed 1849, Admiralty Chart 2541. (893, 1857) Port Pegasus, surveyed 1849–1850, Admiralty Chart 2542 (893, 1857; 2nd edition with corrections, 1861)

Foveaux Strait and South Island, surveyed 1850–1851, Admiralty Chart 2553 (893, 1857; 2nd edition with corrections, May 1873; 3rd edition with corrections, 1881; 4th edition, December 1894)

Stewart Island map, compiled and drawn by W. Deverell, November 1898, photolithograph 1899 (893, 1899). This map has been annotated with Maori place-names.

See also copies of two early town plans: Town of Rakiura at Port William, surveyed by James Hay, February 1877 (35, 078, 1877); Township of Oban, surveyed by James Hay, May 1877. (893 958, 1878) The Pictures Collection has a glass negative of William Stewart's 1809 chart of Port Pegasus, published 10 October 1815 by Whittle and Laurie, London. (P86-007)

Photographs

The basic alphabetical sequence has a good selection of Stewart Island photographs. Others are scattered among general collections and albums. These are mostly scenic, but there are some botanical and whaling photographs.

Native flowers and plants of Stewart Island (ex Album 204).

Portraits, whales, whaling equipment and ships from *The Whales' Wake* (Morton Collection P83-014).

Rosshavet Whaling Company's Kaipipi Shipyard, Paterson Inlet (Album 54).

Accessioned from the Archives and Manuscripts Department is the Maida L. Barlow collection of papers relating to Olga Sansom, 1686–1991 (ARC-0135). This collection contains many photographs, including portraits of pioneer settlers (ARC-135: MS 1416/001, MS 1416/002, MS 1416/044, MS 1416/045, MS 1416/050, MS 1416/079), and of the sawmilling era (ARC-135: MS 1416/002, MS 1416/060, MS 1416/061, MS 1416/062, MS 1416/079).

Bound volumes of *Otago Witness* (1899–1928), for which there is a limited index, and the *Auckland Weekly News* (1900–1942), can also be found in the Hocken's Picture Collections.

Pictures

Artist unknown, Golden Bay, Patersons Inlet, c1888, in sketchbook of views, 72 x 131mm, pencil on paper (G Xs acc: 7,855)

Artist unknown, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Is, 1898, 304 x 482mm, oil on board (F Xh acc: A82).

Barnicoat, John Wallis (1814–1905), Cottage, Stewart's Island, Paterson's River, 1844, 105 x 197mm, pencil on paper (A B263 acc: 94).

Brunton, Fanny W., Stewart Is, 1876, 55 x 360mm, pencil on paper (G B911 acc: 21,101 31).

Buckland, Jessie Lillian (1872–1939), Stewart Is from Bluff Hill, 1906, 176 x 253mm, watercolour on paper (G B942 acc: 26.767 13).

Cochran, Henry William Duncan, (d.1962), Paterson Inlet, 1936, 136 x 84mm, watercolour on paper (Au C663 acc: 15,699).

Daff, Lily Attey (1885–1945), Cottage, Stewart Island's Paterson's River, copied from original by J.W. Barnicoat for the Hocken Library, 1931, 98 x 151mm, pencil on paper (KoA D124 acc: 12,286n).

Deverell, Walter, Gog and Magog, Stewart Is, 1880, 178 x 541mm, watercolour on paper (C D491 Fs loan acc: 7,539).

Hodgkins, William Mathew (1833–1898), Paterson's inlet, Stewart Is, n.d., 250 x 762mm, pencil on buff paper (G H689 acc: 9,988 033); Halfmoon Bay Stewart Is, n.d, 216 x 400mm, pencil on paper (G H689 acc: 9,988 034); South end of Stewart Is, 1877, 60 x 350mm, pencil and yellow wash on paper (G H689 acc: 9,988 063); The end of Stewart Is, 1877, 37 x 174mm, pencil and yellow wash on paper (G H689 acc: 9,988 065); Stewart Is from off the Solanders, 1877, 106 x 257mm, pencil and yellow wash on paper (G H689 acc: 9,988 066).

Howorth, Charles Henry (1856–1945), Mt Anglem, from Lee Bay, Stewart Island, n.d., 283 x 394mm, watercolour and opaque white on paper (Au H865 acc: 23,457).

Kirkpatrick, Myra M. (1910–1970), Rain at Golden Bay, c1930, 308 x 410mm, watercolour on paper (B K59 acc: 91/202).

Natusch, Sheila Ellen (1926–), Herekopere Island, 1960, 253 x 346mm, coloured chalks and wash on paper (Au N285 acc: A832).

Nerli, G. P. (1860–1926), Sketch near Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, 1897, 214x 124mm, oil on wood (F N443 acc: 15,743).

O'Brien, George (1821–1888). Half Moon Bay, Stuart's Island, c1851–88, 302 x 455mm, watercolour and opaque white with scumble on paper (C O13 acc: 7,840); Half Moon Bay, Stuart's Island, photomechanical offset lithograph on paper (ReKE O13 acc: 77/1 a).

Scott, John Halliday (1851–1914). Stewart's Is, n.d., J.H. Scott sketchbook, Volume 02, page 71, 90 x 128mm, ink on paper (G S427.5 acc: 77/80); Stewart Is, 1910, J.H. Scott sketchbook, Volume 15, page 31, 180 x 255mm, ink on paper (G S427.5 acc: 77/93).

Traill, Dorothea Ellen (1891–1958)."Othello", Paterson Inlet, c1946, 215 x 338mm, watercolour on paper (A T766 acc: 71/190); Port Pegasus, n.d., 178 x 254mm, watercolour, pen and ink on paper (A T766 acc: 16,216).

Wimperis, Jenny (Ann Jane) (1844–1929), Stewart Is, n.d., 177 x 124mm, watercolour on paper (Au W757.5 acc: 21,503).

[Pictures by two Stewart Island artists, T.H.Jenkin (1889–1958) and Emily M. Moffett are also in the Hocken collection, but do not depict Stewart Island.]

Written for the Friends of the Hocken by Leah Taylor with the valuable assistance of Hocken Library staff. Edited by George Griffiths. Designed by Gary Blackman