



Rakiura Stewart Island offers a special experience - a glimpse into a simpler, slower lifestyle, in rhythm with the sea and the tides, attuned to the natural world of bush and beach.

Conference facilities suitable for various group sizes are available at Stewart Island as well as a range of activities to enjoy before, during or after your event.

#### **Stewart Island Community Centre**

The impressive Stewart Island Community Centre was opened on 19 September 1999, after six years of planning and fundraising. It is community built, owned and operated with pride. The centre represents enormous commitment from the local community and their supporters in Invercargill. Dedicated fundraising and volunteer labour enabled the Islanders to build a community centre with a high quality finish, well equipped to cater for current and future needs of the islanders and its visitors.

Located in central Halfmoon Bay on Ayr Street it is an ideal venue for a conference (of up to 250 people), a social function, team building weekend or sports event. The Community Centre is wheelchair accessible and boasts a full size sports stadium and gym with a range of equipment, shower/toilet facilities, social/conference room, dance floor, full stage, sound system, exhibition area, bar and chiller, and a commercial kitchen (designed by a European chef). Catering can be arranged.

Contact the Centre Manager, Stewart Island Community Centre, PO Box 187, Oban, Stewart Island  
Phone/Fax +64 (0)3 219 1477

Email [stewart.island@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stewart.island@xtra.co.nz)

#### **The Pavilion**

Overlooking the bowling green on Ayr Street, The Pavilion has a function room and kitchen facilities available for hire.

Phone +64 3 219 1014

Two sample itineraries for a series of activities spread across two days are set out below.

# *Simply inviting*

## Day 1 - enjoy a scenic cruise & spot a kiwi

**Hop onto a boat** to watch seabirds soar and skim the waves with ease - regular sightings on pelagic excursions include a number of albatross species as well as petrels and shearwaters. Depending on the time of year, three species of penguin may also be seen. Or discover the exquisite scenery and wildlife of Paterson Inlet on a coastal Stewart Island cruise. Take a scenic trip up Freshwater River or experience the rich history at Whaling Base in Prices Inlet which in 2014 was declared an archaeological site by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Venture further afield for a day trip to the spectacularly rugged Port Pegasus.

• *Cruises, Diving & Fishing* • *Tours & Activities* • *Water Taxi* •

**Search for a kiwi.** The Rakiura (Stewart Island) Tokoeka is one of five species of kiwi in New Zealand and Stewart Island offers one of the best opportunities to see this iconic bird in the wild. Kiwi represent the uniqueness of New Zealand wildlife and are a national icon - we therefore recommend you join an organised evening tour with a knowledgeable guide to look for kiwi so that these birds are not disturbed or viewed under inappropriate conditions.

• *Guided Walks* • *Tours & Activities* •

## Day 2 - stroll through paradise & take a road tour

**Stroll through paradise** at Ulva Island. This open sanctuary is New Zealand at its most pristine; a place of natural primeval beauty, where the sounds of ancient birdsong can be heard. It is one of the few predator-free open sanctuaries in New Zealand and the well-maintained walking tracks provide easy access to diverse birdlife, lush forest and beautiful beaches. Situated in Paterson Inlet, just a 7-minute water taxi ride away from Golden Bay Wharf, Ulva Island can be enjoyed independently or as part of a guided walk. Going it alone? Grab a self guide booklet, pack some lunch, book a water taxi to Ulva Island, and allow at least 3-4 hours to explore this paradise for bird watchers and natural history lovers. Or take a guided walk to learn about the native birds and plants of Ulva Island and its history. Tour group sizes, departure locations and length of excursions vary. Please check your footwear, clothing (especially velcro) and bags to ensure you are not unwittingly transporting weeds, seeds and rodents to Ulva Island, and remember to bring all rubbish back with you.

• *Tours & Activities > Ulva Island* • *Tours & Activities* • *Guided Walks* • *Water Taxi* •

**Take a scenic road tour.** Book a tour, sit back and relax, and let someone else do the driving on our 28 kilometres of road while you listen to tales of island history. Take in the stunning beach views, panoramic vistas across Paterson Inlet, try making a phone call from the iconic 'telephone tree' near Horseshoe Bay, marvel at the Anchor Chain and Matariki sculptures at Lee Bay - where the road ends and the Rakiura "great walk" begins. Various modes of transport are available for road tours which cater for single travellers to large groups.

• *Tours & Activities* • *Tours* •

The anchor chain symbolises the connection between Rakiura (Stewart Island) and Te Wai Pounamu (the South Island). It is said that demigod Māui, fished up Te Ika-a-Māui (the North Island) from his canoe (the South Island) which was anchored to Stewart Island. The late Russell Beck created the Lee Bay anchor chain sculpture in 2002 and its twin at Stirling Point was installed in 2009 at Bluff on the South Island.

The Tupuārangi pou (post/column) at Rakiura (Stewart Island) represents one of nine stars in the Matariki cluster. Matariki is the Māori name for the star cluster also known as Pleiades and marks the start of the Māori New Year, heralding a time of remembrance, joy and peace. The Tupuārangi pou was created by James York and Keri Whitiri and is part of the Matariki wayfinding pou project connecting locations throughout the Southland region of New Zealand.

## Day 1 - catch a fish, watch a local movie

**Catch a fish!** The crystal clear waters surrounding Stewart Island offer exceptional fishing opportunities, whether it's teaching the kids to fish for spotties off the wharf or an organised fishing excursion. Use a rod or traditional hand line to catch your own dinner! Blue Cod is the usual target and the catch is shared between those on board. Recreational Fishing Rules and regulations for coastal Stewart Island, Marine Reserve and Matakaitai areas in Paterson Inlet are available from the Department of Conservation.

• *Cruises, Diving & Fishing* • *Tours & Activities* •

**Watch a movie** on the big screen at the Bunkhouse Theatre. "A Local's Tail" is a quirky 40 minute film about Stewart Island as seen through the eyes of Lola the dog and tales overheard at the pub! Have your questions answered and learn about the highs and lows of island pioneers past and present. The Bunkhouse Theatre is one of Stewart Island's historic buildings, arriving prefabricated from Norway in 1928, it was used for accommodation at the Whaling Base in Paterson Inlet until being relocated in 1932. A number of original features remain and it is now the home of "A Local's Tail". Booking are essential as this is a private home. Allow 1½ hours to enjoy the film, check out the house and have a coffee with Penny (home owner & film producer). Closes for winter.

• *Tours & Activities* • *Arts & Culture* •

## Day 2 - explore our heritage comprising a museum visit, heritage walk, scenic cruise

**Explore our heritage** at Rakiura Museum / Te Puka O Te Waka which boasts a nationally significant collection. The museum showcases the development of industries based on Stewart Island's rich natural resources which first attracted Māori followed by a cosmopolitan mix of settlers - sealers, prospectors, timber millers, ship builders, whalers, fisherman and tourism providers.

• *Tours & Activities* • *Our Heritage* • *Rakiura Museum* •

The Rakiura Heritage Walk brochure for a small fee at Rakiura Museum / Te Puka O Te Waka, which plots a fascinating perambulation to ten historical sites, including the peaceful haven that is Moturau Moana Native Gardens.

• *Tours & Activities* • *Rakiura Museum* •

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• *Cruises, Diving & Fishing* • *Tours & Activities* • *Water Taxi* •