



During the afternoon delegates also had the opportunity to try their hand at clay pigeon shooting called 'debt collection' for the purpose of conference.

Saturday saw everyone off to Bluff for the ferry across to Stewart Island and a choice of a local bus tour, underwater viewing on the semi-submersible or fishing. While the fishermen got quite wet in the morning, they did land a healthy catch while those who took the afternoon trip didn't fare quite so well. The fish that was kept was consumed later that night at the Drunken Sailor while the undersized ones were thrown back only to fall foul of the Mollyhawks that waited in ambush for anything that went over the side of the boat! Those who did the submersible trip were awed with what they saw beneath the surface and the short trip that covered a good percentage of the island's twenty four kilometres of road also provided an insight into island life.

The Drunken Sailor back on the mainland was host to the last night's evening meal with much dancing, much eating and a fair amount of drinking. Even in these temperatures our one naturalist managed to air his differences much to the amusement of those who hadn't taken the early bus back.

The final morning saw the closing breakfast being held with smaller numbers as many had early flights out. Here's looking forward to the Bay of Islands next April.



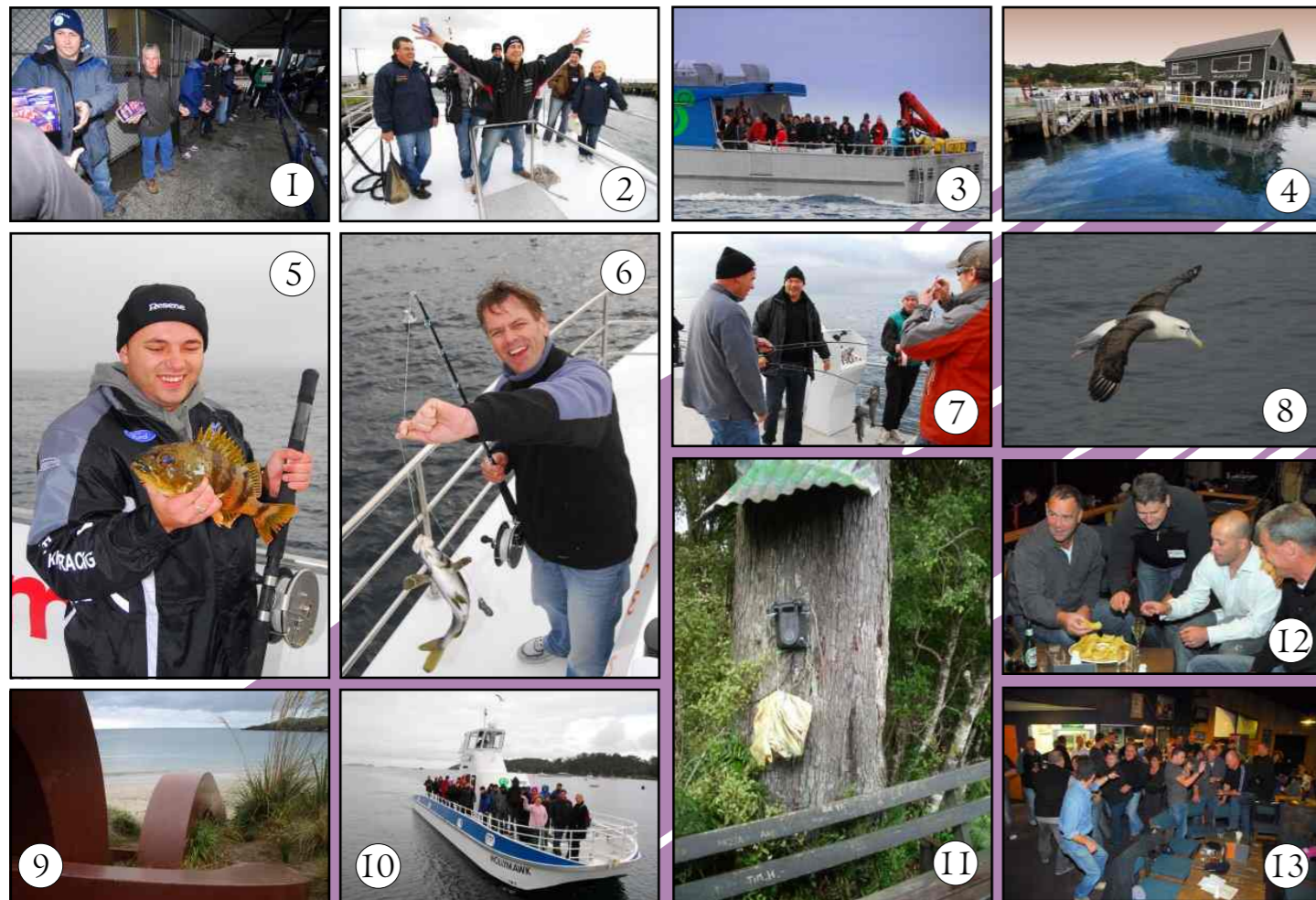
roof negating the need for additional transport. With the awards entries being displayed in the hotel foyer, delegates had ample time to view work from all around the country. Awards MC Bob Parker again did a sterling job in keeping the pace rolling along and the band that followed certainly knew how to get people up and dancing. It was yet another late night for many and with an earlyish start the next morning as we headed to museums and the conference presenters it was inevitable that some would miss the bus!

National hero and local legend Burt Munro has a whole section of the Invercargill Museum dedicated to his exploits and history. After watching a documentary film of some of his antics it was time to see the exhibit proper which included some of the film set materials from the World's Fastest Indian. After this experience it was back on the bus and off to the quite stunning Bill Richardson Museum, a private collection of trucks that has been one family's passion for many years.

From the museums it was onto the Hideaway for lunch and three of the presenters. First up was Craig Rust, originally an accountant but now a full time presenter since the publication of his book, Where's the Money. Craig was followed by Kathy Jarrett from Jarrett and Associates who also addressed matters financial. The last of this day's speakers was John Hadfield from Australia who posed the question 'Are you Struggling or Managing'. All presenters sought and gained delegate participation in their presentations which were well received across the board.



25 - 29 April 2007 INVERCARGILL



1 Loading the ferry with essentials (It'll be a short chain!) - **2** Someone had to do 'Titanic' - **3** Heading for Stewart Island - **4** Oban Wharf - **5** It's a ??? - **6** It's a Trumpeter - **7** Mine's bigger than yours! - **8** One of many large Mollyhawks that fought for the scraps - **9** The anchor chain holding the SI in place - **10** Glass bottom boat - **11** The Island's public phone - **12** Eating the catch back on the mainland - **13** Party time at the Drunken Sailor



The first Southland conference was a real cracker. For many delegates it was their first time visiting the deep south and Invercargill, and for even more it was to be the first time crossing the Foveaux strait and visiting Stewart Island. Following hard on the heels of the annual Oyster Festival wasn't a bad thing either as they were still being brought in fresh on a daily basis so as those who don't live in Invercargill or Bluff can experience these marine bivalves fresh from the shell!



The Mix 'n' Mingle registration night was just that, an opportunity to catch up with acquaintances and friends and to meet new people. It was also time to see what new and exciting things were on offer from the many sponsors who supported the Southland conference and who made the trip to Invercargill to participate fully in the conference proceedings.



As is custom, the first full day of conference started with the President's breakfast and then it was straight into the business end of things with the AGM. Meanwhile the ladies headed off in organised groups to the day spa and various treatments to prepare them for the awards evening later. Buses also took golf and pool tournament players to their destinations and the afternoon's activities.

Invercargill offered the ideal situation for the awards night in that the Ascot Park Hotel permitted everything to be staged under the one

1 Bluff Oysters for the mix 'n' mingle (I hope everybody's worked!) - **2** Trade presentations and oysters! - **3** A couple of the delegates shucked oysters too - **4** The girls at the day spa - **5** Pool tournament time - **6** It's the Happy Gilmore golfing academy - **7** Awards night - **8** The country's top apprentices get recognised - **9** It's Bob with Bob!

