



First Floor
Dunedin Railway Station
22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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Awards and certificates were presented by **Tony Ayres** of JW Smeaton, sponsors of the OAS Summer Exhibition.



1st Prize: *To Dementia and Friends*, acrylic by Claire Te Au.

Below: **2nd Prize:** *On Approaching Wanaka*, oil by Philip Markham.

Right: **3rd Prize:** *Home Invasion*, acrylic by Anne Baldock.



SUMMER EXHIBITION
Opening Night, Fri. 15th February

Prize Winners

1st Prize:

To Dementia and Friends, acrylic by Claire Te Au.

2nd Prize:

On Approaching Wanaka, oil by Philip Markham.

3rd Prize:

Home Invasion, acrylic by Anne Baldock.

Special Mentions:

Babel, ceramic by Hamish Cormack.

Clean and Green, mixed media by Jerry Howlett.

View from Edwards Bay, acrylic by Tony Shields.

A Smile in the Crowd, acrylic by J M Loughnan.

Reflecting at St. Bathans, photography by Jenny Longstaff.



Right: Summer Exhibition judge, **Ron Esplin** made sure he wouldn't be lost for words when giving his comments at the opening.

Members' Meeting

this month coincides with
opening night of

The Nude

Dunedin Fringe Festival Exhibition

Thursday 21st March

6.00 pm

Come and join the celebration!



President:
Doug Hart

Facebook:
otago art society

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www.otagoartsociety.co.nz

Back Issues of the newsletter
are available on the website.

President's Message

Doug Hart

Mad as a March Hare goes the expression and here we are bounding into another month with great enthusiasm and spirit. The summer has been wonderful and I've spent a lovely week on an Emerald Isle set in gin clear waters known as Stewart Island. It was artistically inspiring looking at the natural wonders of our third island and recording them with photography and sketches. While walking the Rakiura Track I came across some long abandoned log hauling steam engines, which I devoured with many digital shots in order to produce one of my distorted watercolours. There is always inspiration in just simple objects laying around.

At 12.30 at night, I had a female kiwi stand on my foot and proceed to peck at my trouser leg and boot laces. It "Should have gone to Specsavers" – worms would be more appropriate. Definitely an amusing subject for later.

Whilst staying in a cottage in Oban I looked at a botanic painting on the wall and saw the painter was **Audrey Bascand**, a long term member and very talented OAS artist whose work graces our heritage collection. I'm sending a print of the photo I took to Audrey, who is in a retirement village in the North Island. So any painting that you sell may well be on show in any place, in any country in the world. What better accolade for your work than for people to appreciate it and display it in their home or workplace.

Painting participation

Which reminds me! About a couple of months ago I proposed having an art painting gathering on **Thursdays** in the main Hope Gallery. It's free and enables people to get together to create artwork from about **10.30am to 3.00pm** approximately. We do have limited space but would welcome people to come along and enjoy a few hours of social painting. I'm starting as from now. Bring your lunch, bring a drink and just enjoy what the whole purpose of joining the Society is all about, art for all.

Nudes.....beneath the clothing!

This month we are displaying artwork featuring 'The Nude'. This exhibition showcases the great talents of our New Zealand artists to present this organic structure in a variety of ways. The nude has been a subject tackled by the greatest artists throughout the Millenia. You only have to visit any religious Renaissance building to observe the amazing ways the human body has been portrayed and the paramount importance attached to it. However, the nude is not without controversy throughout the centuries with some sections of society reviling it for its lustful undertones and others marvelling in the virtue of finely proportioned bodies. Botticelli and his 'Birth of Venus', Jan Van Eyke's masterful alter piece triptych and Leonardo's 'Vitruvian man'. Have you got your canvas stripped? Have you unclothed your camera? Have you shed your paint brushes? Time to unleash your imagination and try a different technique.

Through the sales and subsequent commissions and donations, we hope to raise many dollars to further the research into bowel cancer, which has an above average global death rate in our country. Last year we raised over

\$850 for the Guide Dogs association through our Year of the Dog exhibition.

Don't forget that the opening night of The Nude exhibition is the next members' night, Thursday 21 March at 6.00.

New Radiators

The galleries are having a new set of radiators fitted in the next few weeks. The old ones were actually leaking and would have eventually split, causing water damage to the galleries and to the Dunedin Railway offices underneath. These new radiators should be more efficient and will be installed in time for the winter. I'd like to thank the DCC for the prompt action it is taking after we identified the problem.

Sales and data input

The cruise ship season has been a great boost to the gallery and shop sales, so much so that we have had at least 4 pages of sales sheets per day. Passengers buy a lot of small items such as cards or magnets to put in their suitcases, which means a large amount of data has to be entered into the computer system by hand. It takes a good 5 to 7 minutes to process each item and is very time consuming. Anja in the office and the council would like to have a set of volunteers to help out with the data input during the week. The procedures are not complicated. You could work with a friend or individually. This would free up Anja to concentrate on the administration side of the organisation. If you would like to help out then please make yourself known. It would help us enormously.

Parking

The trial period for the closure of the Railway Station forecourt has been completed. The DCC will now gather data from the public and other interested parties. This issue could affect the viability of our society in lost sales and inconvenience to all members. The Society's position is that at a minimum we would like to retain all parking and access in front of the station to enable members and delivery van drivers to drop off and collect work. A more effective speed bump system would prevent the byway from other drivers using it as a short cut to beat the lights. If you feel strongly about this issue then please make representation to the DCC.

The Cleveland Exhibition

Finally, the Cleveland Exhibition forms are available with times, instructions and dates. The pre selection will be done from high resolution digital images (supplied by artists) that the judges will choose from. This means that the artists selected will know that their artwork will be showcased, hung and judged. We are grateful to all the sponsors who will be involved with this prestigious exhibition.

Have an inspirational time between now and then and get ready to portray a nude!

Doug Hart

Visitor's comment of appreciation

Brian Miller was working in the shop last week and an Auckland arty lady came up and said 'she had enjoyed our summer exhibition more than any exhibition she had seen before'.

Our artists are going from strength to strength. The high standard of work exhibited is often acknowledged by visitors.

Learn how to take high-quality digital images

Brian Miller is running another set of Digital Camera Classes for beginners during May. All artists would benefit from being able to take their own high class images of their work and learn how to file them. Visit www.lifelogs.co.nz for information. Over 750 people in Dunedin have now completed these classes.

SUMMER EXHIBITION: Special Mentions



Babel,
ceramic by Hamish Cormack.



Clean and Green,
mixed media by Jerry Howlett.



View from Edwards Bay, acrylic by Tony Shields.



A Smile in the Crowd, acrylic by J M Loughnan.



Reflecting at St. Bathans,
photography by Jenny Longstaff.

Excerpt from the judge's speech on the opening night:

RON ESPLIN

There are 215 works of art in the J W Smeaton Summer Exhibition, and I can announce that "everybody has done what you were asked to do", and that is to create and display your artistic endeavours.

Everybody who has their work hung here tonight has produced their art as individuals, and as Edgar Degas said, "Art is not what you see, but what you make others see". Every one of you has exercised your creativity and originality, every one of you has displayed your knowledge of composition and design, and every one of you has utilised your craftsmanship and skill. And these are the three criteria that I applied to arrive at my decision on tonight's winners, **originality, composition, and craftsmanship.**

May I remind you that the winners of these Awards did the same thing that all of you did, they persevered. Vincent Van Gogh persevered and produced more than 2000 works in his lifetime, he is now considered one of the greatest artists of all time, but he was undervalued and only sold one painting during his lifetime, and that was to his brother Theo. All of you artists in this exhibition have created artworks that will remain as your legacy, and may well outlive you. You can be satisfied that you are leaving your mark on the World.

I was talking to another Artist, Maurie Angelo, on Wednesday night and besides being a fine artist, he has been a keen fencer all of his adult life. He referred to fencing as "The conversation of the blades", and we can look at art as the conversation of the brushes, or whatever tools you employ in your creative process. Creating art is not about competition, but is for the enjoyment of the process and for the satisfaction of creating something that did not exist before.

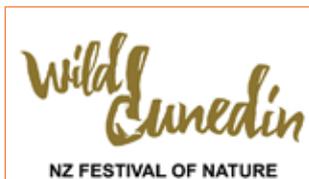
I spent many pleasurable hours looking at and evaluating the works that are around you tonight, and the winners of the Awards were those pieces that began a conversation with me, called me back for another look, and demanded my attention as I hope they will do for you.

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To coincide with the **Wild Dunedin** week, 22nd April to the 28th April., we will be featuring Otago wildlife artworks in the gallery shop. Please bring in any works that suit this topic. The festival's focus this year is on Freshwater Habitat.

Opportunities

Please let Anja in the OAS office know if you would like details about either of the following:

- There is a soft pastel workshop coming up in April with Karol Oakley.
- The Otago Correctional Facility are looking for any volunteers of any art level to come and tutor art classes with the men. I have the details for Moana, the volunteer coordinator, who is more than happy to come and meet and discuss this in more detail and provide information on how volunteers in prison work.

The Nude

Our next exhibition is the first time in our art society's history to have the specific theme of The Nude. We look forward to both the artists' and the public's response.



Standing Firm, an oil painting by OAS Councillor Anton Lambaart, will be exhibited in The Nude exhibition.



New Card Display Shelving for Shop

Many of our artists are producing cards. In order to display these well, and to enable better circulation of visitors in the shop space, **Raimo Kuparinen**, our multi-talented councillor and artist, has constructed the display stand pictured at left.

Volunteering: Artists who place their work in the shop for sale are urged to contribute to the running of the society by volunteering some time.



February Members' Meeting

Stuart Strachan, left, who was the Hocken Librarian for many years, presented an informative illustrated talk: *100 years ago in Blueskin Bay and Waitati*.

His talk was followed with some light entertainment by **Jenny Longstaff**, who read some of her recently-penned humorous poetry for children.

Featured Artists

Mark Cowden is the invited Guest Artist at the West Otago "Taste of Art" Exhibition, which runs from 15th – 19th March at the West Otago Community Centre, Tapanui.



Below: **Julia McNaughton**, a recent featured artist.

Right: Pictured at last month's Thieve's Alley Market: OAS artist **Rachel McCoubrey**, with her children Hannah and Noah. Rachel was selling her illustrations and children's books.



Left: Pictured during her stint as an OAS featured artist recently, **Marie Reid** shows some of her beautifully painted work that is admired by many.

Marie has been invited to exhibit her work at the Owaka Museum from 22nd March through to 19th April.

Events Calendar

• Summer Exhibition

Kindly sponsored by J W Smeaton. Exhibition ends 16th March. Artists, please collect your unsold works on Sunday 17th March from 12 to 4pm.

• 'The Nude' exhibition – part of the Dunedin Fringe Festival

• Entry forms due:

Friday 8th March, by 4pm.

• Last day for delivery of works:

Sunday 17th March, 12 to 4pm.

• Opening Night: Thursday 21st March, 6pm. Exhibition will continue until 13th April.

March Members' Meeting:

• Come at 6pm, Thursday 21st March to coincide with 'The Nude' exhibition opening function.

• Cleveland National Art Awards Call for Entries!

(Entry Forms available at OAS desk.)

Entry form, fee, and high-resolution digital image due no later than 4pm Friday 12th April.

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Editorial comment: Unless otherwise attributed, all items in the OAS monthly newsletters are compiled by the editor, Jenny Longstaff, Immediate Past President 2013–16. The newsletter is approved by OAS Council before printing and distribution.

Contributions are welcome: stories, photos, news, exhibitions, tuition etc.

Please email Jenny to discuss: j.a.longstaff@gmail.com or phone her on 021 1326 053. **Deadline:** information must arrive a week before end of month to appear in following month's issue. *The OAS Newsletter is printed by Hope and Sons.*