



First Floor
Dunedin Railway Station
22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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Dunedin 9058, New Zealand

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otagoartsociety@xtra.co.nz

OAS COUNCILLORS, 2019-2020

President: Doug Hart

Vice-Presidents:

Annie Peppers, Anton Lambaart

Immediate Past President:

Nic Dempster

Councillors:

Jenny Longstaff, Geoff Adams,
Julia McNaughton, Raimo Kuparinen,
Mari Gomes-Bradford, Brenda Nyhof,
Celia Duff, Lorna Allan, Lindsay
Campbell, Allie Simpson,
Danielle Munro.



Pleasing attendance

It was wonderful to see such a good attendance at last month's Members' Meeting on 16th July, where we were treated to a 'double act' husband and wife presentation by 'that Blind Woman', Julie Woods, and artist Ron Esplin. We were entertained, uplifted, and informed by stories from their recently launched books: Julie's positivity in "Why Not?" and the couple's travels in "Wonderlust", in which their visits to the modern Wonders of the World are profiled.



Ron Esplin with a copy of Julie Wood's book "Why Not?", illustrated by Ron. Julie is making book marks with people's names in braille.



The countdown is on to the 2020 Hope and Sons Art Awards. Entry forms are in, artists are busily finishing their masterpieces. Outside entries need to be delivered to OAS from Mon. 14th Sept. to Fri. 18th Sept., and local entries can be delivered on Sun. 20th Sept. and Monday 21st Sept.



Stacking chairs after the members' meeting. Assistance from members is always much appreciated. (Brian Treanor, left, donated \$200 for the Photography award in the recent "Bursting the Bubble" exhibition.)

There is no Members' Meeting this month as the **AGM** is to be held.

AGM

**Thursday 20th August
at 7.00 pm**

We encourage members to attend as a show of support for your President and Council, and to hear the Review of the past year and ideas for our future activities.

Feedback and suggestions are always welcome, so please come along to the AGM.

Doug Hart will run an entertaining Art Quiz after the AGM business is over.



President:
Doug Hart

Phone 0211346252



Facebook:
[otago art society](https://www.facebook.com/otagoartociety)



Instagram:
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www.otagoartsociety.co.nz

Back Issues of the newsletter are available on the website.

President's Annual Report 2019–20

Doug Hart

AS PRESIDENT of the oldest art society in New Zealand, I have been privileged to have the support of a great membership, a talented, creative body of artists and a very supportive council of volunteers. It's been very rewarding to have experienced the growing involvement of members in a number of roles in order to keep the organisation running as smoothly as possible.

We also honour the passing of some of our members amongst whom were two very supportive, hardworking councillors and talented artists, Peter Nicholls and Murray Ayson. Their contribution to the OAS was immeasurable over the many years of their service.

Since the last AGM, the society has been through a number of changes. One issue that affected us was that parking restrictions in front of the station were to come into effect. This led to negotiations with the DCC in order to secure extra parking for our members at the side of the building. However it has meant that the public can no longer pull up in front of the building for short visits.

We also have innovated a more inclusive aspect that has allowed novice artists to display and develop their talents, which has paid dividends in our exhibitions. The additional range of artworks and techniques have brought about a freshness to the whole purpose of the OAS and that is to encourage and educate members to realise their creative potential. We have actively promoted younger people to participate in our galleries with differing styles of traditional and contemporary art.

In addition, we have helped people in the presentation of their work regarding framing and mounting. The society seeks to raise these standards further in the coming years to attain a more professional feel to our exhibits. It's important to us that members of the public and the art community of Otago view us as a beacon of high standards because, after all, they are the ones purchasing unique and creative items for their homes and businesses. We have set out to encourage our members to diversify into all areas of artwork such as fabrics, photography and sculpture.

People from all over the world have spoken of the high standards of work on show in our gallery and shop. Many of the works now reside in far flung countries which is a great testament to the diversity of art that our members create.

Without the support of our artists, exhibitions would never happen. I believe it gives a real boost to members to see their work displayed in these heritage galleries. Without the support of our sponsors, as well as our artists, we couldn't put on the prestigious shows that occur many times in the year. Thanks to Edinburgh Realty, Hope and Sons, Ryman Healthcare and J.W. Smeaton & Co.

Our activities for the last year have been successful and varied. We started with the best ever Edinburgh Realty exhibition by attracting top quality artworks from the South Island which resulted in good sales figures and furthered our reputation among the New Zealand art fraternity. This was followed by our inclusion shows of Artsenta, Studio 2, Andrew Cook, and the ever popular Youth Art Awards. An aim of the OAS is to foster the love and good practice of art amongst aspiring and enthusiastic artists of all ages and abilities. The range of artworks from local schools, organisations and colleges demonstrate that art education is so important in our lives. Cutting edge design, whether it be for fabrics, household items, advertising or fine art, starts by nurturing the natural talents of young people. If we invest in art/design education, then we invest in the future prosperity of the country.

November brought the Ryman Healthcare sponsored Spring exhibition which has forged a partnership with elderly residents and staff of the care homes and our artists. Again, the involvement of art has proved a definite benefit to the continued well being of people of all ages. It's never too early or too late to enjoy the creative process of making.

Following on from this was the ever popular Love, Buy, Take, Affordable art show, Di Wales and friends' exhibition 'The Daring', and the really well supported, Artists' Demonstration weekend. The latter brought a mass of visitors eager to see how art is made and also to participate in the process. It's a definite way of educating the public and putting our good name out into the community. We're looking forward to putting on another demonstration weekend at the end of August.

In March of this year we were honoured to put on the Pastel Association of New Zealand Exhibition, featuring the artworks of premiere pastel artists. Demonstration workshops were planned to further the skills of pastel applications. Sadly and quite suddenly, Covid-19 forced the closure of not only this exhibition but also the entire building. Everything was mothballed and the country quite rightly went into lockdown. Fortunately our very efficient administrator, Ngaire, was on hand to apply for the government wage subsidy in order to protect our paid staff. I pay further tributes to our staff notably Jan Ingram (I wish her well for the future), Sarah and Ness.

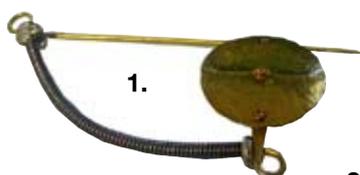
To further complicate matters, Cobb and Co. closed down and unfortunately Dunedin Railways pulled out of the station.

Continued next page.

VARIETY OF EXPRESSION

Some works from the recent "Bursting the Bubble" exhibition:

1. Brooch by Paul Brimecombe
2. Vase by Rosemary McQueen
3. Jug by Hamish Cormack
4. Textile cushion by Denise Benwell



President's Report, continued.

Now that we have emerged from a potential tragedy, we have found that local support for our 144th Annual Exhibition 'Bursting the Bubble' was enthusiastically received, resulting in many sales. The OAS has invested in various forms of advertising, online and in local papers, in particular the very supportive ODT. This has resulted in more people coming to the station to view our galleries and streamlined shop.

At present we have the 'Pop-Up Shop' exhibition which has replaced the Edinburgh Realty one this year, but we have their assurance that they will return next August. We hope that the present exhibition will also be successful.

The future of the society is determined by the strength and commitment of the membership. It runs as smoothly as possible with the use of creative paid staff and enthusiastic volunteers.

Looking to the future

We have many shows planned and new directions to take. 2021 is virtually full up now and will include 3 major national exhibitions as well as our own members' shows. You are all part of the organisation and the councillors will do their best to further the aims and objectives of the society. I take heart from the rising attendances at our monthly members' meetings as well as the friendly interactions at exhibition launch nights. The social aspect of the OAS is very important to us, where people can meet and exchange ideas and be motivated and educated in the world of art. This includes the weekly painting groups and future workshops and talks that we intend to run.

The DCC and New Zealand Heritage have embarked upon a three year, three stage plan of preservation of the world famous station. There are differing thoughts of what to do with the station to invigorate it and I understand that they are considering different scenarios. The Society would like to see the building become a 'go to' place for visitors and locals with a lively feel to it.

There's no doubt the restoration will have an impact on us. Quite what that impact will be, we'll have to wait and see.

Finally, the Dunedin art scene is enriched by the superb galleries such as the DPAG, Gallery de Novo, The Artists Room and Moray Gallery. We count ourselves lucky that we can participate in the culturally important scene that this city has to offer. It would be advantageous to the city to establish an art centre of excellence in the Railway Station to further this aspiration.

I wish you all well for the coming year and your continued positive support for the Otago Art Society.

Doug Hart

DEMO WEEKEND: 29th & 30th August, 10am-4pm
An opportunity to see artists at work using different mediums.

Advance notice! **POETRY PARADE: Sunday 13th Sept., 2pm**

With the aim of facilitating closer connections across Dunedin's creative sector and bringing a different audience to our galleries, we are organising a public presentation of poetry. Come and hear local poets read their work, plus discussion on the connection between the visual and the verbal. There will be an "Open Mic" session, so if you'd like the opportunity to read one of your poems, bring it with you and register your interest with organisers.

Inquiries to Jenny Longstaff: ph. 0211326053
or Danielle Munro: ph. 0221639932



Above: Donna Jackson has her entries checked in by Annie Peppers for the Pop-Up Shop exhibition.



Above: Pictured with one of her own works, Jennifer Belt APSNZ assists with hanging the exhibition. Volunteers are the backbone of our society. Can you offer some time to help in the shop or with exhibitions? If artists come to help hang a show they soon see why instructions on entry forms about D-rings and swing tags should be obeyed. Please assist by having your works properly presented. Make sure any frames used are well-constructed.



Your OAS committee undertook a strategy workshop recently, facilitated by Anton Lambaart with assistance from Danielle Munro. Anton is internationally recognised in brand marketing initiatives, so his advice will be very useful as we develop strategies to position OAS for a resilient future.

Developing innovative strategies for the future

Due to world events, life as we knew it has changed. This has had a major impact on your art society. Now, more than ever, we have to step up as a supportive and proactive organisation, a "society" in all aspects of the meaning, developing connections. This means cooperation in contributing to a successful future. We can't expect it to be "business as usual". We don't need to be stuck in an inherited model. Now is the time for bravery, focusing on what we stand for and embracing change for a resilient future.



David Corballis and Joan Hardey on a recent Saturday at the sales desk. It is pleasing to see commitment from our older members, having shaken off their mothballed lockdown to brave the public arena once again. Joan is a legend – back to her usual Saturday volunteering slot once more. Thank you!



Elizabeth Jenkins, beside the beautiful floral arrangement which she created for the launch event on 16th July at the Dunedin Library for Elizabeth Brooke-Carr's posthumous poetry collection: "Wanting to Tell You Everything".

Sales Success

In the recent "Bursting the Bubble" show a total of 54 works were sold, showing good support from the public.

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Events Calendar

Pop-Up Shop Exhibition

Open to the public
until 27th August.

Each weekend during the exhibition an array of smaller items will be available for sale.

Please collect unsold exhibition works on Thurs. 27th or Fri. 28th August. We need the rooms clear for Demo Weekend.

AGM

20th August, 7.00pm

Come along – show your support for the president and council members; review past activities and discuss ideas for the future.

DEMO WEEKEND

An opportunity to see artists at work using different mediums.

29th and 30th August, 10–4

Let's Talk Peninsula

An exhibition by OpenArts
(Otago Peninsula Artists)

5th –19th September

Watch for advertised accompanying events.

Poetry Parade: public presentation

Sunday 13th Sept., 2pm

Come and hear local poets read their work; open mic; plus discussion of the connection between the visual and the verbal.

On show in our galleries next month: "Let's Talk Peninsula"

An exhibition by Otago Peninsula Artists Group (Open Arts Inc.)

Saturday 5th September – Saturday 19th September 2020

- Lunchtime Talks by Peninsula speakers (dates to be advertised)
- OAS Members Night (17th September) – Series of short talks by various Peninsula speakers.
- All visitors to the exhibition can enter the draw to win fabulous Peninsula related prizes.
- Take part in the interactive 'Doodle Table' where artists and visitors can chat while adding to an evolving work of art on a table.
- Includes a special fundraiser exhibition "With Love from the Peninsula" raising money for our Dunedin Wildlife Hospital.

Calling any artists who would like to help support the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital!

Open Arts are running a special fundraising section at their exhibition being held at the Otago Art Society in September (see above). We are calling for any artists who would like to contribute an A5-sized work (148mm x 210mm – either landscape or portrait format of any theme) to help raise money for the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital. If you would like a piece of Artist Quality Paper to do it on, please email Anne Baldock at annebaldock@outlook.com or ask the staff at the OAS counter. Alternatively, you are welcome to use your own materials, keeping to A5 in size. In the spirit of our theme about "talking" please write a short message or poem about the work, intended for the purchaser, on the back. Please return to the OAS counter by September 1st. All works will be sold for \$120, with the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital receiving 70% and OAS 30% commission. Many thanks for your generosity!

"Moving Light" : Baden French

Visit the **Moray Gallery** at 55 Princes Street to see Baden's beautiful landscape paintings of Dunedin and surrounds, on show until 21st August.

Pauline Bellamy on the big screen

In Plain Air

*A short film directed by
Miranda Bellamy*

Those of you who attended the World Premiere Screening of this short film at the Regent Theatre on Monday 3rd August were treated to a beautifully filmed celebration of Pauline's ethos as an artist while she painted in a number of Otago's stunning locations.

Editorial comment: Unless otherwise attributed, all items in the OAS monthly newsletters are compiled by the editor, Jenny Longstaff (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.*