



First Floor
Dunedin Railway Station
22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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Ngaire Kitt – OAS Administrator



*Edinburgh
Realty Premier
Art Awards*

**Friday 9th August,
6.00pm. Private viewing
for entrants and members
of the Otago Art Society
and announcement of
Awards.**



Bruce Hunt, pictured amidst some of the entries, judged this year's Edinburgh Realty Premier Art Awards.

OAS staff, Council members and helpers have been hard at work in the lead up to presenting this prestigious exhibition, in collaboration with Edinburgh Realty staff, whose support is gratefully acknowledged.

This year, there were many large-size entries. 170 works were accepted to be hung in the exhibition.

All is now ready for the excitement of the Sponsor's corporate nights leading to the Awards announcements themselves on Friday 9th August.

*Pictured below and at right:
Receiving, unpacking, hanging and numbering
works ready for selection by the judge for the
Edinburgh Realty Premier Art Awards Exhibition.*



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

AGM
**Thursday 15th 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.


Our current OAS Council members are all available for re-election for 2019-20.



President:
Doug Hart

Phone 0211346252

 Facebook:
otago art society

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www.otagoartsociety.co.nz

Back Issues of the newsletter are available on the website.

President's Annual Report 2018–19

Doug Hart

I PERSONALLY FEEL PRIVILEGED to be involved with the oldest art society in New Zealand, particularly as I've only been a resident in this wonderful country for five years. With the sudden resignation of the previous president, Nic Dempster, who admirably led the organisation into new fields, I was thrust into the society with little experience. However, with a superb team of councillors to support me, in particular Vice President Annie Peppers, the running of the organisation became easier. All sixteen council members have given up time and energy to set up and run the exhibitions and day-to-day initiatives of the society.

During the year we have said farewell to Cassandra Rolston and welcomed Danielle Munro and Lindsay Campbell onto the council. Their contribution is much valued and expertise in certain areas such as business acumen, appreciated.

Staff changes and challenges

This year has flown by and has involved a lot of changes and challenges in the administration of the OAS. In the office, Cynthia Haarkman stood down after a sterling effort involved in data input, and was replaced by Anja Waugh. Then in January, Jen Long was signed off by her doctor on medical grounds. Fortunately, Anja stepped into the role to try and keep the office procedures going. It was at this time that we had problems with the alarms, internet and phone systems because of the changeover from copper cable to fibre optics. I am very grateful to Anne and Tony Baldock who gave up so much time to sorting out this and installing new efficient accounting systems to streamline the slightly antiquarian programs. I'd also like to acknowledge the funding award from the Otago Community Trust that enabled us to implement new office and health and safety initiatives.

Anja was head-hunted by a local software company, making the most of her degree in a plum job, which left us looking for a replacement with the necessary skill set to run the office. We found such a person in Ngaire Kitt who had previously worked for Greenpeace and Frank Gehery architects in Los Angeles before returning to Dunedin and working in office administration. Ngaire has quickly got to grips with this complex job and her lovely personality and work ethic is paying dividends for us. It's very beneficial that she is in the office five days a week dealing with day-to-day issues on behalf of our members. She is also an accomplished artist.

The shop has also been the subject of change with the loss of Jackie Ryder, who is concentrating on her artistic business. Thanks go to Jackie who spent four valuable years running the shop with the amazingly knowledgeable Ness Kerr. Jackie's replacement is Jan Ingram who has had a lot of previous experience with the OAS and is also an accomplished artist.

Funding and donations of supplies

I am very grateful to the DCC for leasing us this gallery and in partly funding our continued occupancy of the building. It's one of the most iconic and photographed buildings in New Zealand and it's good that the society has breathed new life into the structure. The thousands of visitors, both international and New Zealand public, always comment on the high standard of artworks displayed imaginatively within the galleries. This year we had a donation of paint from Mitre Ten to freshen up some feature walls in the

four galleries and the shop. Again we had very positive comments.

I would like to thank Southern Cross Lighting for the donation of new LED lighting which enhances the display of our exhibitions.

The building is presently undergoing upgrades in a new fire warning system, parking issues and signage.

Parking

Parking availability is a very important issue for us and the other tenants of the building. We raised the point that all our members and exhibitors need easy access to parking close to the building, owing to the size and weight of artworks to be delivered and collected. It is strongly felt that work could be damaged if the exhibitors have to walk a long distance from their parked vehicle, with bulky work in all potential weathers. The OAS has no objections to banning buses and coaches in front of the station as this impinges on the look of the building and impairs photographing this structure. Also, we have no objection to the partial pedestrianisation of the frontage to stop traffic using it as a rat run. It is hoped that we, as an important organisation, will have specific parking allocated to us allowing our members to safely access the building.

Signage

There has also been discussion regarding signage of all the tenants in the station, both external and internal. I believe that as a classic heritage building there should be tasteful and informative signage that also advertises that a prominent gallery and shop are within the building. As a charity we are reliant on establishing a good trade with the public in order to pay our way. This will be an ongoing project with the cooperation of the DCC and Heritage New Zealand in order to strike the right balance.

OAS Constitution

Thanks go to Sharon Stark Lont our new pro bono lawyer who has rewritten a section of the constitution regarding the disbanding of artist only membership. It has been felt for many years that the artist only membership was an elitist item in view of the DCC Ara Toi Strategy which states inclusiveness. We wanted all our members to have the opportunity to exhibit their work, with the independent exhibition judges having the final say on the quality of the work. The voting for this new initiative was overwhelmingly in favour and has resulted in ordinary members receiving awards in our recent shows.

Sponsorship support

In addition we are very grateful to the continued sponsorship and support of J.W.Smeaton Accountants, the Rowcroft family, John Pledger, Alan Dove Photography and Rymans Healthcare. Other notable benefactors are Gallery de Novo, Moray Gallery, Taut Art, Otago Daily Times, Hope and Sons and Artzone.

Featured artists

Our featured artists were a real success with the general public, and alongside the demonstration artist weekend proved that it's so important to show the processes that artists go through to achieve a finished piece. This year's cost to the featured artist will be halved in order for them to make it more commercially viable.

Nude Exhibition: donation to charity

One challenging exhibition this year was the Nude Exhibition as part of the Fringe Festival. The response was excellent with four full galleries featuring anything from a stripped down car to a full sized unadorned 3D model. We raised \$750 for the bowel cancer charity as well as highlighting the illness through nursing, sufferer and charity speakers regarding the prevalence of this disease in New Zealand.

Non-OAS exhibitions

Another successful exhibition was the National Ceramic show and I'm grateful to Nicole Kolig for helping to organise this event. They will be returning next year with another exhibition, along with the National Pastel Association of New Zealand. There's also the opportunity to host an International Exhibition regarding Solander, the Swedish explorer, featuring artworks from famed New Zealand artists. I met with the Swedish Ambassador a few months ago who was very impressed with our galleries, artwork and variety of events.

Members' Night and painting group

Every third Thursday of the month is the Members' Night and we have had a variety of speakers presenting subjects on a wide variety of art related topics. It's an opportunity to get to meet other members and to be more involved with the organisation. These talks take a long time to prepare and

it would be nice to increase the involvement this coming year. With this in mind, we inform other art organisations to join us, such as the DPAG and ODFAS. In addition, there is an informal painting group on a Thursday from 10.30 to about 3.00pm. Bring along your work, sandwiches etc. and just have a sociable time. You get to meet many people visiting the galleries from all over the world. The feedback I've had is that they love to see artists working because in most galleries this doesn't occur.

Promotion and advertising

We promote the Society increasingly through our website and social media. Thanks go to Reid Baldock, Brian Miller and Raimo Kuparinen for updating these channels of communication. However, poster advertising, leaflet drops and newspaper reporting are very effective avenues. I'd like to acknowledge the support and exposure given by Brenda Harwood of *The Star* and Rebecca Fox of the *ODT*.

Crucial role of volunteers

Finally, the parts played by our volunteers (including myself) are vital to the running of the society. I value every minute that they devote to aspects of the job from shop work, catering, hanging exhibitions to being a councillor and painting gallery walls. You are the sum of what you put in and that sum adds up to a huge amount. Let's embrace the new society year and look forward to exciting opportunities.

Doug Hart



WINNER PEOPLE'S CHOICE OAS ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Allie Simpson
"Focus -
New Zealand
Falcon",
watercolour and
gold leaf on barrel.

2nd in the people's choice voting was Susie Ruddenklau's "City Slickers", acrylic.
3rd in the voting was Marie Reid Beadle's "Balancing Act, Stewart Island Party", acrylic.



In Memoriam: Alastair Begg

OAS member **Alastair Begg**, who lost a health battle recently, will be much missed. He was a skilled award-winning artist with a distinctive style.

Alastair was a regular participant in our exhibitions and Demo Days (above).

In Memoriam: Audrey Bascand

It is with deep sadness that we learned of Audrey Bascand's death, July 24, at Woburn Enliven Home in Lower Hutt. Audrey had a long association with the OAS, both as an artist and a council member, and witnessed at first hand the society's move in 1969 to its first home, the old Northern Post Office, now the H.D. Skinner Annexe of the Otago Museum. During the presidencies of Shona McFarlane and Fred O'Neill, she helped with the transformation of the building from Post Office to gallery. They were exciting years. Later, in 2015, she was elected as a Vice Patron, and remained fully involved and interested in our activities until her death.

As an artist Audrey was wonderfully accomplished and inventive. Her work has featured in a number of galleries, including galleries in Dunedin, and beyond, such as the Canterbury Society of Arts, The New Zealand Academy of Arts as well as the Hocken Collections, The Auckland Art Gallery also contains her files. Her works include prints, etchings, engravings, and watercolours. There is a work of hers in our Permanent Collection entitled "Same Hills" which shows her fascination with different techniques – solar print from an original engraving of 1863 Dunedin with an etching in zinc applied by the Chine Collé method. It won a prize in a Hope's Exhibition and was gifted to the society in 2003.

Audrey was also a widely respected teacher. Her classes were marked by her genuine interest in the achievements of her students. She would spend time assessing not only their progress, but also exploring with them their techniques, their choice of colour and even the different brands of paints and their potential.

She advised, and she also listened.

Those who knew Audrey will miss her, not simply for her friendship and knowledge, but also for the best qualities of the society she represented, its persistent pursuit of that elusive question as to the nature of art.

We all extend our sympathy and condolences to her family.

Life is short, art is long, often quoted as '*Ars longa, vita brevis*', after Seneca's rendering in *De Brevitae Vitae* sect.

(Editor: With gratitude to David Corballis for this tribute to Audrey.)



Draw the Medical School Anatomy Museum Collection

Come along to this treasured Museum and draw models, bones and specimens used for Medical and Health Science teaching.

Dr Louisa Baillie will supervise and be available to give you a tour of the collection as well as drawing tips. Classes will run for 5 consecutive weeks:

Tuesdays, 5.30 to 7.30pm, from 3rd Sept. to 1st Oct.

Entry to each class by koha, \$15 waged, \$10 unwaged. Limited to 12 places.

Please contact Louisa to book your place and get more detail.

Mobile 0272704353, or email louisa.baillie@otago.ac.nz



Didn't they do well!

Gemma Baldock has had a great few weeks. During July she won the National Emerging Artist Award hosted by the Waikato Society of Arts for an Artist under 20- 25 Years. This was followed by The Emerging Artist Award at Riversdale in July for "Burning Horse" - a collage work celebrating "The Burning Horse" Festival. (Gemma is pictured at left with her entry).

Then - the cherry on the top - Gemma won the Invercargill Licensing Trust Premier Art Award last week!

In July, Gemma's mother, **Anne Baldock**, won the Nature and Water Award at the Ashburton Society of Arts 55th Annual Art Awards with a little Acrylic work called 'Misty'.

Events Calendar

• EDINBURGH REALTY PREMIER ART AWARDS

Exhibition Awards presentation opening night will be on Friday 9th August, 6pm. (Private viewing for entrants and OAS members.)

Exhibition closes 7th September.

Collection of works: Sunday 8th September from 10am-4pm.

The August Members' Meeting will be the AGM

• Come at 7pm, Thursday 15th August to hear the President's Report of the past year's activities and ideas for the society's future activities.

Election of OAS Council members.

• YOUTH ART AWARDS

Exhibition open to public
28th September - 12th October.

• OAS SPRING EXHIBITION

Opening Night:
Thursday 24th October.
On show through to 24th October.

Lawrence Summer Arts Festival

Theme: 'Heritage'

2-dimensional works only (no photography or digital).

1st Prize: \$2,500 2nd Prize: \$500

Exhibition and activities will run over 2 weekends:
2nd & 3rd and 9th & 10th November.

Closing date for digital submissions: 4th October 2019.

For more information, Email: lawartcompetition@gmail.com
www.lawrence.nz/events Mobile: 0274 908 391



Rita Blaikie was a recent visitor to the OAS gallery one Saturday when **Joan Hardey** was manning the shop.



President **Doug Hart** checks in **Kelly Wilkinson's** entry for the Edinburgh Realty Premier Art Awards.

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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.*