



First Floor
Dunedin Railway Station
22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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Administrator: Ngaire Kitt

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,
Lorna Allan, Lindsay Campbell,
Allie Simpson, Danielle Munro,
Eleanor Girvan, Anne Baldock.



Michael and Jannette Hope (far right) were greeted warmly at the AGM. They made a special trip down from Clyde to attend. After presentation of the President's Report, a review of the year's activities, and election of council members, we all enjoyed an entertaining Art Quiz put together by Doug. (Anneloes Douglas won the quiz.)



Seen at the AGM

After initial concern about the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, the AGM went ahead without a hitch on 20th August. Doug Hart is to continue for his final year as our president and the other councillors elected for 2020-21 are listed at right.

The eyes have it. Sign of the times – saving on lipstick and staying safe, this smiling trio set a good example at the AGM, but who are they?

From left to right: Sarah Freiburger, Mari Gomes-Bradford, and Maryalyce Reed.



Recent modifications to the layout of the shop make for a more streamlined display of artworks. There will always be differences of opinion about preference for the former "Aladdin's Cave" look or the current less cluttered one, but we are receiving praise for the new layout and sales are pleasing.



Members' Meeting

Thursday 17th Sept.
at 7.00 pm

'Let's Talk Peninsula'

The evening will feature short talks by 5 prominent people from the Otago Peninsula.

See page 3 for full details of the free public lunchtime talks to be held earlier in the month, on 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 15th, and 16th Sept. as an accompaniment to the exhibition by the Otago Peninsula Artists Group, 'Let's Talk Peninsula', on from Sept. 5th – 19th.



President:
Doug Hart

Phone 0211346252



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Back Issues of the newsletter are available on the website.

President's Message

Doug Hart

Dunedin has an advertising campaign entitled 'Plan D', and what a quirky, memorable and unique slogan. Love it, hate it or just bemused by it, it surely makes for a topic of conversation. The campaign centres on the amazing city enterprises, heritage, scenery and its wildlife. Plan D strongly features the Otago Peninsula and its unique wildlife.

To the artist, the Otago Peninsula region offers such a wealth of inspiration for a variety of art mediums. It has the stunning scenery of places such as Hoopers Inlet, Harbour Cone and the wild region of the 'Pyramids' at Okia. Then there's the buildings such as Larnach Castle, the lime kilns, iconic boat sheds and the lighthouse at Taiaroa Head. Add into the mix the abundance of wildlife such as penguins, albatross and seals and you've a palette full of dream-like substance to keep you inspired for a lifetime.

'Let's Talk Peninsula'

This month, the society plays host to another art group's exhibition 'Let's Talk Peninsula', which brings the artistic community of the Otago Peninsula into the centre of the city. It's great that the talented artists of one of Dunedin's jewels in the crown, the peninsula, are represented in the heart of 'Plan D'. The show will feature a variety of artworks, talks and charity raising activities. A number of OAS members are also members of the Open Arts on the Peninsula.

Dunedin Wildlife Hospital is the nominated charity for the Peninsula exhibition. There's been an enormous amount of preparation by the Open Arts committee to bring this important exhibition into being. With the shadow of Covid-19 lurking, it has been a roller coaster ride to bring all the elements together. Roger Weston and Anne Baldock are to be congratulated as the driving force behind this enterprise.

There are several elements to this exhibition. The first being the actual artworks on display, followed by members' paintings on A5 card which are being sold for \$120 each, the proceeds of which will go to support the continued and valuable work of the charity, Otago Wildlife Hospital. Furthermore there's a public, hands-on table to be decorated with artwork and, finally, a series of lunchtime talks on matters related to the peninsula featuring, amongst others, Ian Griffin from Otago Museum. We would urge you to support these initiatives.

Financial support from Otago Community funding and the DCC has been a critical factor in this venture. Certainly as far as the OAS is concerned, the support from these organisations has been, and continues to be, a huge help in maintaining our presence in the Railway Station. Now more than ever with the absence of the iconic Taieri Railway, we need to breathe life and purpose into the building.

Comments from the AGM

Last month we held our AGM, which was well supported by members. The previous financial year was analysed by Ngaire Kitt, our lovely and hardworking administrator, and myself. It was apparent that factors outside of our control have had an effect on revenue.

David Corballis was honoured at the AGM as our new vice patron after giving amazing and continued service over many years to the OAS. The elected Council members for 2020-21 are listed on the front page of this newsletter.

What's Ahead

We are in the process of rebuilding our market, focussing on the New Zealand public as our primary clientele. It has been very encouraging seeing people from the North and South Islands actively looking for local artworks. They are particularly impressed by our offerings in the galleries and shop. The future may lie in internet sales. An OAS focus group is working on this at present. This is increasingly important as the likelihood of Covid-19 disappearing from the globe is remote. That's why the OAS needs its own 'Plan D' to spread the word about our achievements.

We have many things to look forward to as we head into the latter part of the year. There's the Hope and Sons Awards and the Ryman Healthcare sponsored Spring Exhibition entitled 'Ingredients', a collaboration between our members and the residents and staff of Ryman retirement villages. More details of this will appear shortly and we believe this will be an exciting and different art exhibition based around the idea of food and interpreted in a variety of ways. It's good to be different and to challenge ourselves with an unusual subject matter.

Have a great September, even though level 2 has continued. Please support the Open Arts venture and remember to tell your friends to come and view and hopefully purchase art to support a variety of causes.

Doug Hart



It adds a vibrancy to our galleries when artists are creating. Visitors always enjoy seeing art happen.

At left, Raimo Kuparinen had an attentive audience watching his skill with pastels last month.

At right, a family visiting from Rotorua were intrigued by one of Brenda Nyhof's creatures.



PARKING FOR MEMBERS' USE

At the southern end of the station, between the public toilets and the train in the glass display, there are 7 parking spaces reserved for the art society. The signs say OAS Staff, but any member may use them. If you are volunteering or need to bring items for an exhibition or the shop, park for free in this handy location.



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

votes from our recent 144th Annual Exhibition, "Bursting The Bubble".

(Special thanks to Julia McNaughton for donating the \$100 prize money.)

Most Popular:

Jeff Armstrong
Doug Williams
Allie Simpson
Sharon Pine
Marie Reid-Beadle
6th: Brian Stewart
7th: Annie Peppers
8th: Nelle Paton
9th: Jayne Tui Schwenke
=10th: Gemma Baldock
Trevor Douglas
Julia McNaughton
Sandra Schluter



by Jeff Armstrong



by Doug Williams



by Allie Simpson



by Sharon Pine



by Marie Reid-Beadle

"Let's Talk Peninsula"

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

Saturday 5th – Saturday 19th September

While the main event is centred around the art, it extends beyond a traditional Art Exhibition. This will be a celebration of the multitude of features the Peninsula has to offer.

- All visitors to the exhibition can enter the draw to win fabulous Peninsula-related prizes: accommodation, trips, experiences.
- Take part in the interactive 'Doodle Table' where artists and visitors can chat while adding to an evolving work of art on a table. Come for a conversation or to contribute.
- Includes a special fundraiser exhibition, "With Love from the Peninsula", raising money for our Dunedin Wildlife Hospital.

Free Lunchtime Talks

For the duration of the exhibition, the public are invited to a number of free organised lunch time talks by prominent Peninsula people.

- Rachel McGregor from Port to Port Cruises: "A new era of women aboard".
12 midday, Tuesday 8th Sept.
- Ian Griffin from Otago Museum: "Starry nights on the Otago Peninsula".
12 midday, Wednesday 9th Sept.
- Jordana White from the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital: "The work and place of the Wildlife Hospital to the Peninsula and beyond".
12 midday, Thursday 10th Sept.
- Margaret Barker from Larnach Castle: "The gardens of Larnach Castle".
12:30pm, Friday 11th Sept.
- Sophie Barker from the Otago Peninsula Trust and the Albatross Colony: "Stories of sharing our famous treasure trove".
12 midday, Tuesday 15th Sept.
- James Higham: "My bike journey Cape Reinga to Bluff".
12 midday, Wednesday 16th Sept.

Can't come to the lunchtime talks? On Thursday evening 17th September, from 7pm there will be a series of short talks from 5 of the personalities, at the OAS members' evening.



Featuring works from artists recognised locally, nationally, and internationally.

Where:
Dunedin Community Gallery

When: 6.00pm,
Thursday 8th October.

Gallery open for public viewing from Sunday 4th October.



Public support with purchases

In the absence of international visitors, we have been pleased with support from travelling Kiwis (many from the North Island) and locals such as, at left, a visitor from Rotorua being served by Bev Brensell, and below right, Carmen Taylor with "Spoonbill, by Danielle Munro.

Trudy and Mark Gerken, visitors from Invercargill, were delighted with their first art purchase, a rural scene by Judy Tait. Jenny Longstaff was on hand to sing Judy's praises, pointing out she had won the "Heart of the South" award in the Annual Exhibition. Having conversations with potential purchasers will often lead to a sale.



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Fred O'Neill Medallion

*Article prepared by
David Corballis*

Some of our members may recognise the medallion in the photo at right. It's the Fred O'Neill Medallion, and had been awarded in our Spring Exhibition until 2014.

The medallion has had an interesting story, starting early in our history (1888), and then seemingly disappearing for 100 years, until it was discovered in a garden in Kaikorai Valley in 1984. It's now gone from our awards but will be very familiar to a number of our members. Its disappearance after 2014 seems a shame, but now it has come to light again, it could perhaps be reclaimed in some way as part of our history.

I was recently alerted to all this when Nicole Hesson contacted me on behalf of a friend. Many will remember Nicole, who, as our Administration Officer from 2007 to 2013, did so much to establish us securely in the Railway Station when we first moved in. Sean Rooney, for whom she made the request, recently discovered the medallion and realised it had been awarded to his great grandfather, Alfred Ferris Browne in 1888, at Upper School when he was 15, and he wanted to learn more about it, including what it was awarded for.

Checking out its life history has brought some of the society's past to life and emphasised the importance of some of our past members, and that we're just the most recent members of a much larger and significant cast of characters.

The medallion seems to have popped in and out of the society's life for over 150 years. The date on it as you can see is 1875. That is the year the society effectively began, when "6 Gentlemen" met to form the Otago Society

of Artists. In the chair was William Ferris Browne (Alfred Ferris Browne's father), who was very much a part of the formation of the OAS. William is listed as treasurer for the OAS in 1876 and was a very fine artist, exhibiting not only with the OAS, but also the NZ Academy of Fine Arts, and the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition in the 1880's. Alfred obviously inherited his artistic talent and so was awarded the medallion as mentioned above.

It wasn't until 1984 that more aspects of the medallion's elusive behaviour seem to have come to light, when it was found in a garden in Kaikorai Valley. There seems to have been a reference to Otago Girls' High School as records I've seen show a letter of thanks for information on "the connection between OGHS and the OAS", taken from Principals' reports and prize lists. This showed a list of bronze medals donated by the OAS as annual awards, beginning in 1887. Usually there were two awarded each year (Form 4 and Form 5). In 1895 it was changed to silver and awarded in a special prize category thereafter – until at least 1915. Senor Nerli made the first presentation of the silver version.

I can only assume these medals were copies of the same medallion, as it was its discovery in the garden that sparked off the enquiry. Interestingly, there is a reference in the OGHS letter that there was no report of its award in 1888. And that happens to be the year Alfred won the medallion, the medallion that is shown in the image above.

This has been an interesting journey of discovery, and there are one or two more points yet to be uncovered, which I'll take up in another newsletter.

What was it originally awarded for? Only to OGHS except in 1888? Or to OAS members as well? Does Upper School refer to OBHS? We have discovered a direct family link right back to the beginnings of the Society. Why was it called the Fred O'Neill Medallion? Does anyone else have any further information?

David Corballis

Demo Weekend

29th and 30th August

OAS artists always look forward to our Demo Weekends, enjoying being able to work in front of the public and giving them the opportunity to ask questions, perhaps purchase something having made a connection, or commission a future artwork. Some artists engaged with the public by helping them to produce an artwork themselves.

POETRY PARADE: Sunday 13th Sept., 2pm

Members – Are you a poet?

Read your poetry at this informal gathering to celebrate verbal imagery while surrounded by visual imagery.

Public presentation – Come and hear local poets read their work. 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



Exhibitions

Celsius

Pauline Bellamy

until 20th September

BELLAMYS GALLERY

After a winter break in St Bathans, Pauline presents a series of strong images of the Central Otago terrain.

Artitecture

Nic Dempster

September 4th – 17th

GALLERY DE NOVO

Around the Botanical Gardens

New acrylic paintings

Judy Smith

5th – 25th September at

MORAY GALLERY

55 Princes St, Dunedin.

Group Exhibition

AN ECLECTIC MIX

Local artists **Rod Eales, Jude Ansbacher, Anneloes Douglas, Trevor Douglas** and **Fiona Stirling** are having an exhibition of paintings, drawings and photographs at the Macandrew Bay Hall. There will be an interesting variety of styles, subject matter and mediums that reflect 5 very different approaches and responses to life in Dunedin.

Featured in this eclectic mix are some well loved parts of the Otago Peninsula, including Yellow Head at Broad Bay, the Inlet and photographs of Harbour Cone.

Come and celebrate LOCAL, and talk to the artists from

Sat. 19th – Sun. 27th September.

10.00am – 4.00pm,

MACANDREW BAY HALL



Yellow Head by Rod Eales

TALENT FROM ARTSENTA

We'll be welcoming two artists from Artsenta in our OAS galleries later this month: **James Thomson-Bache** and **Terry Mosley** from 15th to 22nd Sept. James was selected as a finalist for the prestigious Parkin Drawing Award this year.



by James Thomson-Bache



by Terry Mosley

Events Calendar

Let's Talk Peninsula

An exhibition by Open Arts
(Otago Peninsula Artists)

5th – 19th September

See page 3 of newsletter
for more information.

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.

Fun & Games

Acrylic and Ink Paintings

James Thomson-Bache

Parkin Drawing Prize Finalist 2020

Opening 5pm, Tues. 15th Sept.
Exhibition runs until 22nd Sept.

Avoidance

Colour reduction wood cuts

Terry Mosely

Opening 5pm, Tues. 15th Sept.
Exhibition runs until 22nd Sept.

Members' Meeting

Thursday 17th Sept. 7.00pm

Five short talks by Peninsula personalities as part of the Let's Talk Peninsula Exhibition.

Hope and Sons Art Awards

See box at left for delivery dates.

Friday 2nd October, 6.00pm
Awards announced at a private function. Exhibitors and OAS members are invited.



The above mixed media work by **Christine Philp** was an entry in our recent Pop Up Exhibition, and was eagerly purchased by a fellow OAS member.

As editor of this newsletter, I'd like to thank Christine for her skilful and invaluable help in proofreading the newsletter each month.

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.*