



First Floor
Dunedin Railway Station
22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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otagoartsociety@xtra.co.nz

OAS COUNCILLORS, 2020-2021

President: Doug Hart

Vice-President:

Annie Pepers

Immediate Past President:

Nic Dempster

Councillors:

Geoff Adams, Lorna Allan,
Anne Baldock, Lindsay Campbell,
Eleanor Girvan, Mari Gomes-Bradford,
Hayley Rata Heyes, Raimo Kuparinen,
Jenny Longstaff, Danielle Munro,
Brenda Nyhof, Bo Stent.

Edinburgh Realty Premier Art Awards

Exhibition opening, Friday 13th August at 6.00 pm

Open to the public from 14th August to 18th September.

We are grateful for Edinburgh Realty's continued sponsorship of this prestigious exhibition. It has attracted an abundance of top quality entries from around the South Island, resulting in a visual feast of subject matter and technique.

The lead-up to opening night has been a busy time for OAS staff and our volunteers: unpacking out-of-town entries, receiving day for local ones, verifying details, hanging and numbering the works, adjusting lighting, etc.

Checking artwork details for the art awards entries on receiving day.



Final selection and judging was done by **Jenny Sutherland**, artist and teacher, who runs Central Art Space, a purpose built working art studio situated in the township of Lake Hawea.

At the time of writing, the first of two corporate nights has been held, with the exhibition sales off to an encouraging start, then the awards themselves will be announced on Friday 13th – a lucky date for some artists! Award winners will be listed on the OAS Facebook site and in next month's newsletter.

Scaffolding is now being erected on 'our' end of the railway station for maintenance and refurbishment. Please tell everyone it will be 'business as usual' for us.



Our monthly 'critique session' will run from 6.00-7.00pm prior to the AGM, for artists interested in discussing their work (and others), facilitated by Lorna Allan and Jenny Longstaff.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 19th August at 7.00 pm

The Otago Art Society's strength lies in its members. Please show your support by attending this important meeting. Our current President, Doug Hart, will be handing over the reins following his 3-year term and a new President will be appointed.

The Society's management and activities are guided by dedicated volunteer OAS council members. Come along to the meeting as a show of support while a report on the past year is presented. Socialise with fellow members. Your ideas and comments are always welcome.

Annual Membership Subs are due. Please pay promptly.



President:
Doug Hart

Phone 0211346252



Facebook:
otago art society



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@otagoartsociety

www.otagoartsociety.co.nz

Back Issues of the newsletter are available on the website.

President's Message

Doug Hart

An inclusive vessel

I liken the OAS to a cruise liner and a container ship. Here's the reason. The society is an inclusive vessel, whereby any person who is interested in art, whether they paint or not, can have fun and enjoy the company of other like-minded people. There's entertainment, informative talks, lavish shows and the joy of 'sailing' into new waters and ports of creativity. A container ship delivers. As a society we aim to deliver a variety of initiatives to keep you, the member and ultimately the public, interested in what we are 'unloading'. It's always a surprise to see the work coming in for exhibitions and the shop. New artists work with clever ideas, subjects, mediums and styles that influence our more established members. Large, small, long, short, round, square, textured, smooth, multi coloured, plain palettes and everything in between – there's no end to the permutations that can be achieved by the creative mind.

Ships also have to weather storms. This year and a half the OAS has been no stranger to the world of pandemics, bureaucracy and monetary pendulums. The demise of international tourism, the downturn in spending revenues, the COVID-19 virus, the cancellation of The Taieri Gorge Railway and the disappearance of parking places outside the building have all had an impact on our charity.

Sponsorship and support

When I look back at the year I find hope in all the areas we have strived to improve. Our sponsors have been loyal and generous. Hope and Sons, the Hope family, JW Smeaton Chartered Accountants, the Cleveland Trust, Ryman Healthcare, Alex Campbell Menswear, Crew Recruitment, Sharon Stark Lont solicitors, Taut Art, Gallery De Novo, Moray Gallery, Adams Plumbing and at present, Edinburgh Realty.

Acknowledgement is also made to the Dunedin City Council for rates rebate.

Exhibitions

We were entertained by the 'Meow' Exhibition, sponsored by Humanimals and NZ Natural Pet Foods, which brought a new and younger demographic into our galleries and in turn supported a worthwhile charity, Cat and Kitten Rescue.

Our Spring Exhibition showcased 'Ingredients', with our members having fun with the challenge of matching artwork to established family recipes. There were so many great ideas on show for the public to see. The Ryman residents were delighted to see their old family recipes brought to light with innovative and amusing interpretations.

Inclusion is a core principle of our developing

society. We have a close relationship with Artsenta and its talented members. It was an important moment for our society, their society and every participating artist when they opened the '35 for 35' Exhibition last month to celebrate 35 years of its involvement, education and support in providing a creative space for people in the mental health community. I marvelled at the diversity of work on show and the sheer commitment of both staff and artists in what is a really important subject, the therapeutic nature of art making.

The featured artists weeks continue to be popular, being appreciated by visitors and locals and even getting a mention in a national newspaper. This will continue to be an important element through the years. By participating, artists can showcase the creativity and art practices that are an important facet of their work. There may be times when the sales don't match up to expectations but the core of this initiative is to establish a name and hopefully a client base for commissions.

Facing challenges

In the next few years, the good ship 'HMS OAS' will face more challenges as it traverses the changing 'oceans'. The refurbishment of the entire exterior of one of the most famous buildings in New Zealand, will see the building encased in scaffolding and tented fabric. We have been in continuous dialogue with agencies to make sure that it doesn't impact too harshly on our galleries. Signage will be very important to ensure that the visitors on whom we rely know that the building, and subsequently our gallery is still open for business. We need our members to push the notion to friends etc., that we are a worthwhile gallery to visit with a huge range of art for sale. On completion, the building will be in line to receive a national heritage award and we hope to bathe in it's reflected glory.

The captain and the crew

The OAS operates with a great crew of people. Ness and Sarah in the shop, Ngaire in the office, councillors who make decisions and our expanding band of volunteers. I have been very privileged to work and laugh alongside these people. Their commitment to the good of the society is faultless and without their help I would have found it much more of a challenging role to execute. After three and a half years of being 'The Captain', I'm taking a journey down the gangplank. A new 'Captain' will take over the ship, but I shall be assisting in any way I can to ensure that the OAS can sail onward for another 145 years through calmer and richer waters.

Kind regards,
Doug

Life Drawing: Upskill your drawing technique

Here at **Pea Sea Art**, 6 George Street, Port Chalmers, we run life drawing classes every Wednesday 6pm till 8pm.

We have a great model and the classes are self tutored. We supply all materials. Cost: \$15 per class.

Interested? Contact us at 021 113 7278 or email peaseart@gmail.com

**Winner: "People's Choice"
145th Annual Exhibition**



Winner: Raimo Kuparinen, *Monsieur Hulot's House*, Mixed (Raimo's work captivated viewers with its perception of 3-D complexity, done with mirrors and a light sensor.)

2nd: David Johnston, *Upper Haast River*, Oil

3rd: Marie Reid-Beadle, *Another Hare Out of Place*, Acrylic

Equal **4th:** Ches Pritchard, *For Pam*, Acrylic

Equal **4th:** Julie McNaughton, *Hooker Glacier Lake, Aoraki*, Acrylic

Volunteers Afternoon Tea Party, Sunday 18th July

Our volunteers are the backbone of the society so we were pleased to be able to show our gratitude at the recent social gathering. The OAS appreciates your help and time in whatever way you can offer it.



Anton, Peter, Tony, and David.



It might not be high art, but it was fun. Pictured is the end result of a collaborative effort by attendees at the Volunteers afternoon tea, with each contributor having a minute to paint a flower to add to the vase.



Patricia, Joan, and Di.



Musical interludes: Kaori played the violin and Jude played the harp.



Rona Dyer (1923-2021), one of the OAS's most important artists.



Vauxhall, Otago Harbour, 1952. (This work is in the OAS permanent collection, donated by the artist.)



Thistle, an example of Rona Dyer's skilful printmaking. (From Joan Hardey's art collection.)

Obituary: Rona Ina Dyer

New Zealand artist, printmaker, painter and book illustrator, Rona died on the 20th May, 2021 at Yvette Williams Retirement Village, Dunedin, in her 99th year. She was one of the OAS's most important artists. A skilled and versatile art practitioner of national regard, Rona was a respected life member of OAS.

Gillian Pope remembers that an impressive exhibition of her work was held in 1995 in our former gallery, the old Dunedin North Post Office.

Mari Gomes-Bradford, in her role as care assistant at Yvette Williams Retirement Village, remembers recent conversations with Rona, where her membership of OAS and her life as an artist were areas of pride for her.

Rona Dyer was born in Dunedin and studied at the Dunedin School of Art as well as the Central School of Art and the Goldsmiths Art School in London. She worked in a variety of mediums, but is best known for wood engravings for fine prints and book illustrations. She exhibited at the London Society of Painters, Etchers and Engravers, the Society of Wood Engravers and the Royal Academy. She became a dedicated regular exhibitor at the Otago Art Society. She spent recent years in residential care but continued her membership all her life. Some of her 1950s wood-cut prints are included in the Mona Edgar Collection, part of the Hocken Collections.



'Wear your best hat' was embraced with enthusiasm by these members: (top) Ness and Anne; (below) Brenda and Julia.

Events Calendar

Imagination Mondays

To encourage participation and create a busier atmosphere on usually quiet Mondays, a series of workshops is in the planning stages. We'd like to hear your suggestions for topics or tutors.

"Encouraging Creativity – kick-starting verbal and visual imagery"

Jenny Longstaff will be running a workshop on Mon. 6th September, from 10am to 2pm, 10 participants maximum, \$40 each. To register, phone 0211326053 or email: j.a.longstaff@gmail.com

August Members' Meeting

Thursday 19th August

6.00-7.00pm: Critique session. Interested members are invited to bring along a work you'd like some non-judgmental advice about, for supportive feedback, or we can discuss exhibition work on display.

7.00pm:

Annual General Meeting

Current president Doug Hart will present his annual report and hand over the reins to a new president and incoming councillors. Be an involved member: support the running of your society; discuss ideas for the future and socialise with fellow members.

Current exhibition:

Edinburgh Realty Premier Art Awards

Awards Announcement night: 6pm, Friday 13th August. Exhibition open to the public 14th August to 18th September.

Workshop:

"Encouraging Creativity"

(Mon. 6th Sept. 10am – 2pm. See notice this page)

Forthcoming exhibition: Ceramic Association of New Zealand Awards

60th National Exhibition
23 October – 20 November 2021

The best of the best – finest contemporary New Zealand ceramics and pottery.



During a visit to the Artsenta exhibition last month, Nicola Jones was delighted to be reunited with some past colleagues, depicted in Chris Mac Neill's lino cut "The nice people that work at the Artsenta, 1999", part of the Creative Arts Trust Collection.

Message from the OAS shop

- Worried about being unable to pay your subs by cheque? Sarah advises that debit card payments can be processed over the phone.
- To standardise prices, members with cards for sale in the shop are advised that all cards (except specialty hand-made ones) are now priced at \$7 each. When you bring in new stock, please price your cards at \$7,



Using one of our smaller galleries recently as a pop-up printmaking exhibition proved popular. It was good to have our artists' skill displayed, rather than tucked away in racks.

ART ZONE

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OAS artists exhibiting at Moray Gallery, 55 Princes Street, Dunedin.

August (this month: one-week pop-ups – get in quick!):

Baden French: *The Inner Drishti Revisited*
16th – 20th August (Artist talk: 1pm Friday 20th August.)

Jenny Longstaff: *Changing Currents*
23rd – 27th August (Artist talk: 1pm Friday 27th August.)

September:

Anne Baldock: *Sea Change: An exhibition of new landscape works*
Friday 3rd September – Friday 24th September 2021
(Artist talk: 1pm Friday 3rd September.)

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.*