



First Floor
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DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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OAS COUNCILLORS, 2020-2021

President: Brenda Nyhof

Immediate Past President:
Doug Hart

Councillors:

Lorna Allan, Anne Baldock,
Lindsay Campbell, Mari Gomes
Bradford, Hayley Rata Heyes,
Peter Hurst, Tash Hurst,
Raimo Kuparinen, Jenny Longstaff,
Danielle Munro.

A Balance of Care and Control – a controversial decision

Your OAS President and Council members are elected to conduct the business of running the Society, according to what they assess is in the best interests of its members.

At a meeting convened at short notice on 2nd December, the 15-member OAS council – representing diverse views on the issues – discussed a COVID-19 policy response. When working on the assessment it became quite clear that we are at a high risk with our visitors, membership, staff and volunteers. It appeared that without significantly changing the way the OAS is run, there was no real choice but to use the vaccine passport system, otherwise our activities could become unviable due to limitations on numbers attending.

The council came to a majority decision: ***Everyone coming into the OAS premises will now have to show an official Vaccination Passport.***

We kindly ask all members and visitors to present a form of ID and their valid COVID-19 Vaccination Passport to staff on arrival, wear masks, keep a social distance of one metre, and sign in using the COVID-19 tracer



app or manual sign-in sheet. We have daily cleaning protocols implemented for your health and safety.

Process for the decision

The process for formulating the OAS Council's recommendation was based on a risk assessment questionnaire, derived from government information and suggested questions from WorkSafe (New Zealand's primary workplace health and safety regulator). This was required by the government in readiness for the implementation of the 'traffic lights' system. It was also timely, given the concern expressed by several members – and no doubt felt by many – wanting some clarity on what OAS would be doing to minimise risk.

Our assessment is initially a draft, as a more formal one will need to be completed when additional information comes out from the government as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

We appreciate your understanding as we transition to this new framework, which allows us confidence to plan ahead for our busy exhibition and event schedule whilst providing reassurance for our staff, members and communities.

Please read the President's message by Brenda Nyhof on the following page for further reference to this decision.

Please note that it is still possible to be a member without being vaccinated, but dealings with the OAS would need to be contactless as is the case with many of our out-of-town members. Council members have offered their help with artwork pick-up and drop-off deliveries for exhibition and sales gallery entries if required. Please get in touch to discuss.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Safe travelling, happy holidays!



President:
Brenda Nyhof

Phone 027 489 0360

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

Instagram:
[@otagoartsociety](https://www.instagram.com/otagoartsociety)

www.otagoartsociety.co.nz

Back Issues of the newsletter are available on the website.

President's Message

Brenda Nyhof

Hi All,

The Ryman's Spring Exhibition is up on the walls looking fabulous! The Affordable Exhibition is coming up very quickly to be followed by Christmas and our art Demo Day in January. The Summer exhibition sponsored by JW Smeatons Chartered Accountants will be hot on the heels of that.

Big changes

We have had big changes with the traffic light system and the use of the vaccine pass at the OAS. Apologies to all for the short notice in implementing this. We had been awaiting more clarity when it became apparent that we needed to produce our own health and safety risk assessment regarding Covid ahead of the traffic light system.

The OAS has to put the safety of our staff, volunteers, members and visitors first.

As a society, community, country and planet we are in uncharted territory, with many uneasy about changes and future implications for both health and human rights. We are living an important piece of history right now.

It is very divisive when human rights, the greater good and core beliefs are brought up hard against each other. I firmly believe what will get us through is compassion, caring and understanding that people are all unique and hold different beliefs close to their hearts.

Hard work acknowledged

In any controversial decision that is not unanimous there will be some collateral impact. It is with deep regret and sadness that the OAS council now has vacancies, due to resignations by three members who could not in conscience support the implementation of the Vaccination Passport requirement. I would like to send a huge thanks to Annie Pepers, Bo Stent and Eleanor Girvan. Hardworking and fantastic people, they have put a considerable amount of time and energy into the society and will be greatly missed by us all. I wish them all the best.

Thanks also to our hardworking staff – Ngaire, Ness and Sarah – who during all the uncertainty during the year have been unfailing in their professional manner. They are the “face” of the society, helping artists, members and visitors. You are all amazing! I'd like to also extend a warm welcome to Tara, our new staff member.

And of course all you volunteers, so generous with your time, are much appreciated. We can't operate without your valuable help.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and hope you enjoy time with family and friends. Don't forget to find some time to keep making art!

Brenda Nyhof



Tara Douglas, our new Sales Gallery coordinator, is replacing Ness Kerr who is departing at Christmas time after many years of loyal work with us.

Welcome to our new staff member, Tara Douglas:

"I have recently returned to my hometown Dunedin after 6 years of working in China. Joining the Otago Art Society team really appealed to me, with the fantastic creative community and the supportive and nurturing environment for artists the OAS provides.

I have a professional background in art galleries, retail and art education. I am also a practising artist with a Master of Fine Arts, I enjoy working in a range of different mediums and have exhibited both nationally and internationally for the last 15 years. I hope to bring a range of skills and experience to the OAS team, and really look forward to meeting everyone."

Members' Meeting held on 18th November

Lorna Allan delivered an enjoyable presentation explaining the life and times of her journey as an artist, with plenty of lively anecdotes and examples of her paintings.



After Lorna's presentation members were able to ask questions and learn more about her techniques.



Below: The members' meeting also served as a farewell function for Ness Kerr, during which Doug Hart presented her with one of his paintings depicting the Railway Station in his quirky style. (See back page to read a message from Ness.)



Another one of those time-consuming little jobs attended to by volunteers: untying the picture hanging lines in readiness for the next exhibition.



Michael Greaves,
exhibition judge.

Spring Exhibition

We are privileged to once again have Ryman Healthcare sponsoring our Spring Exhibition, currently on show until 18th December.

The exhibition's theme of 'Making Connections' provided artists with plenty of scope for creativity.

The exhibition opened on Friday 26th November. Michael Greaves, senior lecturer in painting at the Dunedin School of Art, judged the works. He commented: "It was a pleasure to be able to look at the selection of work for the 2021 exhibition. There were a number of entries that caught my eye, and the overall quality of the entered work was high."



Detail from the First Prize-winning painting, *Allegro for Insects*, by Franky Strachan.



First Prize
Franky Strachan
Allegro for Insects

Judge's Comments: The all over application of paint, colour palette and rhythm initially drew my eye to this entry. A delightful dance of colour and form, proposing a flattened space, or theatre for some intended play. Small insects and delicately painted flowers populate this imaginary world, and in thinking on the theme for this year's exhibition, connections, I was reminded of the important symbiotic relationships of the natural world that we all inhabit. These small insects; dragonflies, ladybugs and bees, frantically negotiate the chaotic space of the painting, moving between and among colourful flowers in a dance or fight for something necessary. In this can be read an allegory to the ever-changing nature of the world we as humans inhabit and the importance of all of the small connections and relationships necessary within it to live in peace and harmony.

Third Prize
Dharshini Ganeshan, textile, *Mountains & Waterfalls*

Judge's Comments: Macrame has always interested me, as it emerges from a connection between its intended or proposed form and the limitations of the medium. Often it is seen as functional and usable outcome, however in this instance the artist has used the medium as image, depicting a scene of mountains and waterfalls. The work is technically sharp, the patternation masterfully done, combining the stylistic shapes and forms associated with the maker's memories of the landscape with tight and controlled knotting and yarn selection. What interested me most about this work is how it will change depending on its location. Change the base colour of the wall, the architecture of the space and the work will present in a different way. In this way the work is always in flux, like the landscape it depicts, and will become connected to the place in which it hangs, constantly shifting its association, memory of place and feeling.



Second Prize
Nicola Jones
Blue Patch

Judge's Comments: Landscape as a subject in painting is often tied to an intangible connection to place, a feeling, a memory or an idea of something dear to the maker and then attempted to be presented to the viewer. To be able to convey these things in paint is really very difficult, and often the idea is lost in a chase towards a technical application. This painting by Nicola Jones deftly straddles a recognisable depiction of its subject, while presenting a pictorial moment, full of surprising and lovely passages of paint. The scene might be that of a friend, close to the artist, in the process of building something contained in the image, a record of this moment, an idle painting. But, for me these possibilities are surpassed by the whimsical but controlled attention to other elements. Namely the economy of mark to depict the trees, the pop of blue sky, and the repetitive marks in the dwelling and of the grass. These elements in particular draw me, as the viewer, into the work leaving spaces for the process of painting to activate and engage the eye. The work, although placed high on the wall continued to announce itself amongst its peers, a quality I often find in good painting.

Spring Exhibition

(continued)

Special Mentions

Brenda Nyhof:
Daisy Chain

Raimo Kuparinen:
Permutable Paths,
and
Connected Living

Judy Wilson:
Come over for a drink



Awards being announced on opening night of the Spring Exhibition.



*'Daisy Chain' by Brenda Nyhof.
Below: detail shows the brushwork.*



*'Come over for a drink', by Judy Wilson.
Raimo Kuparinen's versatility was noticed
by the judge, with two mentions.
Left: 'Connected Living'
Below: 'Permutable Paths'*



*It might not look like it, but there are a lot of smiling happy people under those masks – we all know winners are grinners.
From left: Kate Morgan (Ryman's), Dharshini Ganeshan (3rd Prize), Nicola Jones (2nd Prize), Gail Miller (Ryman's),
Mari Gomes Bradford (OAS councillor), Di George (Ryman's), and Franky Strachan (1st Prize).*

Tu Tonu Regional Museums Project

Ngairé Kitt, our administrator, and councillor Jenny Longstaff attended a one-day hui at Otago Museum on Wednesday, 8th December, to be part of a discussion for a new project which is being established to identify challenges and opportunities within the arts, culture and heritage sector across Otago and Southland. It is hoped that a collaborative approach will help to develop events and resources that will enhance existing support, training and networking capabilities. The OAS was specifically identified as being an organisation that could benefit from this project. Representatives from various regional museums, heritage trusts and the Forrester Gallery in Oamaru attended.

Volunteering

Two new volunteers have signed up in the last month. With shop shifts and the many little jobs involved with running exhibitions, volunteers are always welcome. A reference document of the opening and closing procedures in the shop has been updated to help those who are new to this role.

For next year, **Nina Hesom-Williams** has volunteered to do all of Sarah's closing shifts (Tuesday/Wednesday). Nina is a terrific volunteer. We are so happy she is enjoying this, and really appreciate the continuity having her close twice a week will bring. Thank you Nina!

Get your pinking caps on!

For the 2022 Dunedin Fringe Festival, 17th - 27th March, we will be staging an exhibition with the theme: **PINK**. Opportunity abounds for imaginative, weirdly wonderful items. There is a plethora of pink possibilities to produce, from pavlovas to pink panthers, pachyderms, posies of pretty petunias etc. Get the picture?

An OAS steering group is exploring ideas for accompanying events, such as a pink fashion parade, collaborative poetry wall, drawing table for children. Have you got any ideas you could contribute, and help to run?



Photo by Danielle Munro



Brian and Carmen Stewart, with Brian's painting that was the first to sell in the Spring Exhibition. Sales have been disappointing for this exhibition, which in no way reflects on the quality of work displayed. In these trying times it is difficult to know whether low visitor numbers are due to COVID or the Railway Station being under wraps for maintenance, with visitors being hesitant to enter.

Hope and Sons Art Awards

Scheduled for April 2022

Promoting OAS

The cost of advertising is very high, so it is wonderful when free assistance is put towards raising our profile. A big thank you to artist and council member **Hayley Rata Heyes** who was interviewed on Radio One recently.

All members can help by recommending OAS to your family and friends, buying cards and artworks as gifts, sharing Facebook posts, and volunteering.



Assistance from Mac Wilson and Nicola Jones was gratefully received last month for the task of re-hanging works in the Permanent Collection.



Receiving day for the Spring Exhibition – checking that entries have followed the instructions.



Ness Kerr, centre, our departing Sales Gallery co-coordinator, with Bev Brensell, left, and Robyn Armstrong, at last month's Members' Meeting.

From Ness: Hello dear Volunteers!

This is a Happy and a Sad letter to you all! Happy news first...I am working today with Tara Douglas our new Sales Gallery Co-ordinator. She is a lovely young woman who will be a real asset to the Sales Gallery with her knowledge of art, her initiative and gentle manner. Tara is recently home to N.Z from China where she has been teaching Art to children and running her own Gallery. She will have some interesting stories to share with you when she meets you in the new year. I know she will enjoy your company and help as I have!

I am so sad to be leaving the role but also excited to be starting a new life phase ...not quite sure what that will be but will include catching up more with family up north. I want to thank you all for your friendship as well as your help as volunteers. I have learnt so much about being active and involved in your retirement by hearing of the various interests you have shared with me, so I will try to follow your examples including being a volley at the OAS!

I hope you will still feel happy to volunteer in this crazy masked/passport world we are negotiating. Do feel you can call to chat about how you are feeling if a bit worried. We have had the first couple of days with the passports and been very impressed how organised visitors have been having them at the ready.

Very Best Wishes & Love to you all,
Ness

Members' Meetings will resume on Thurs. 17th February, 7.00pm. (subsequently, 3rd Thursday of each month)

DEMO DAY

Saturday 22nd January,
10am-4pm

Contact Brenda on 027 489 0360 if you are an artist and would like to participate in this hands-on day, showing the public our magic.

We were hoping to run this as a 2-day activity, as a Demo Weekend, but the Sunday date would have clashed with Receiving Day for the Summer Exhibition. (Our exhibition calendar dates during the year have been mucked around by COVID interruptions.)

Sponsor Support

The Summer Exhibition 2022 will again be sponsored by JW Smeaton Chartered Accountants, facilitated by Tony Eyre, Director. Sponsorship support is appreciated very much. Prize values will be:

First Prize: \$500
Second Prize: \$300
Third Prize: \$200
People's Choice : \$100

See Events Calendar, at right, for exhibition date details.

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Events Calendar

Current exhibition:

Spring Exhibition
(Sponsored by
Ryman Healthcare)

Theme: 'Making Connections'

Exhibition open until 18th Dec.

Collection day: Sun. 19th Dec.
10.00am to 1.00pm.

Please Note: Due to our lack of storage, it is essential that unsold works be collected promptly on the 19th as the next exhibition will be opening to the public the following day. This tight turnaround requires your cooperation, please.

Upcoming exhibition:

Love • Buy • Take
Affordable Art Exhibition
(Max. price \$1000)

20th December – 20th Jan 2022

This exhibition follows straight after the Spring Exhibition. Drop off your work when you collect your unsold Spring work. Artwork can be entered later in Dec. and Jan. but check if the gallery is open first as our opening days may vary.

This is a 'takeaway' exhibition with works replaced when they are sold.

Public Activity:

DEMO DAY

Saturday 22nd Jan. 10am – 4pm

Upcoming exhibitions:

Summer Exhibition 2022
(sponsored by JW Smeaton
Chartered Accountants)

29th January – 26th Feb 2022

Receiving Day: Sunday 23rd Jan.

10.00am to 1.00pm
(Please note these hours!)

Opening and Awards night:
Friday 28th Jan. 6.00pm

Open to the public: 29th Jan.

PINK

(A Dunedin Fringe Festival
Exhibition)

Opens on 17th March

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.*