

Otago Peninsula Artists, incorporated as OPENARTS INC, is a non profit group whose aim is to promote and encourage creative arts on the Otago Peninsula for the benefit of its artists and community.

## Over 1000 visitors view almost an island Exhibition

Committee members are very pleased with the success of the 'almost an island' 2010 Exhibition held at the Macandrew Bay Hall in early April.

51 artists, all with a Peninsula association, exhibited a wide variety of work from painting in all media to pottery, photography, weaving, jewellery, woodworking, mosaic, sculpture, dry point etching and wood block printing.

The opening attracted a large crowd - the hall was packed. We thank Peter Hayden for opening the exhibition.

Over a 1000 visitors viewed the Exhibition. 45 artworks were sold not including books by local authors Brian and Dianne Miller.

The success of the Exhibition was not just measured in numbers however. Visitors were asked to fill out a form choosing their favourite artist. This effectively turned out viewers into judges and art critics. Many people took their responsibility as judges very seriously spending at least half an hour revisiting works, discussing with friends and partners and making comparisons. Filling in these forms proved to be a particularly effective means of engaging children with the artworks while their parents had time to browse. It also made people more aware of artists names and styles. 737 forms were completed,

and the winner of the "People's Choice Award" was Tudor Caradoc-Davies. The prize is a trip for two with Elm Wildlife Tours.

Apart from giving Peninsula Artists an opportunity to display their work, the exhibition gave artists a chance to meet each other and get to know each other a little better. The Exhibition also became a community event as visitors met with friends and chatted.

The Exhibition Committee has come to the conclusion Macandrew Bay Hall was a very effective venue for the exhibition. Hanging in this Hall is relatively easy because of the existing picture rail. With the lights purchased from Open Arts funds for a previous exhibition, the display boards kindly lent by Broad Bay Hall and the varied art work, the entire exhibition looked professional and interesting.

The numbers of people visiting the exhibition were impressive. Our survey informed us that this was largely due to advertising and our banners but other factors which probably worked in our favour were people being out and about for Easter, the proximity of the new walkway bringing visitors to our door, the concurrent exhibition at Bellamys and the good weather.

Many thanks to all those who helped to man the show. I think most artists who did this found the feedback from visitors useful.

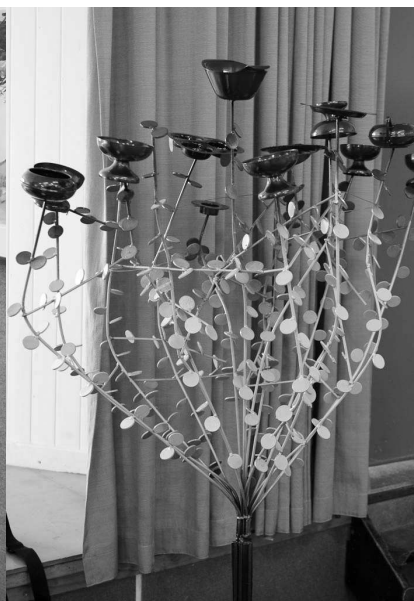
We are grateful to our sponsors who include Creative Communities NZ (Dunedin City), Southern Victorian Charitable Trust Inc., NZ Post, Elm Wildlife Tours,

## Notice of Annual General Meeting of OpenArts Inc. Sunday, 13th June 2010, 5pm Broad Bay Hall.

Agenda:

1. Confirmation of quorum (12 members)
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous AGM held on 5 June 2009. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. Chairman's report and adoption.
5. Financial report and adoption.
6. Election of Office Bearers:  
Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee members – 4 financial  
Co-opted members
7. Confirm Treasurer as signatory
8. Membership fee 2010/2011 proposal
9. Other Business  
December 2010 Exhibition Committee  
Easter 2011 Exhibition Committee

and Arts Content B&B. We also thank spouses who helped with setting up the hall lights, screens, and arranging furniture. They are Tony Baldock, Richard Higham, Alex Shemansky and Richard Wood. Tudor Caradoc-Davies, Convenor.



**Profile: Chris Donegan** Interview and photos by Tudor Caradoc-Davies

Chris is a maker of silver jewellery.

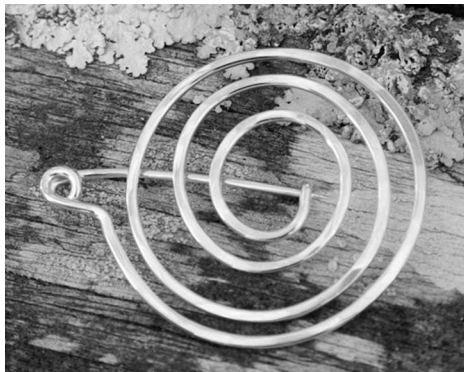
Chris is a part of the Otago Peninsula. She was born here and has spent most of her life living here. Her parents also have deep roots in the Peninsula. Her father was a lighthouse keeper and farmer and her mother a DOC wildlife officer at the Albatross Colony.

Her mother's side of the family go back even further, being descended from Octavius Harwood who owned the first "general store" at Otakau (there must be stories to be told about this place and its history).

Chris went to school at Portobello and Queens. She worked in a bank for a few years before going to Australia for a year. She then lived in Dunedin for 3-4 years, before returning with relief to the Peninsula. Chris has now lived in Macandrew Bay for 20 years. She is married and has a 9 year old daughter.

While working at the bank Chris became interested in herbs and oils, and this led on to her taking a Diploma in Aromatherapy and after leaving the bank she set up an aromatherapy practice.

Her interest in art goes back many years and she took a number of courses including stained glass, pottery, calligraphy, and three years ago tried a jewellery course. She had found a Fine Art course at the Polytech to be too much of a commitment so joined an adult course at Kaikorai Valley High School run by Richard van Dijk, the bladesmith and goldsmith. There were three years of hands on work.



*Silver Brooch by Chris Donegan*

Chris described the course as starting with making a ring which sounds simple but involves design, measurement and calculations, and learning about soldering. Chris says she found the process so exciting that she had trouble sleeping after a lesson. She would dream about designs and enjoy making them. She worked on many prototypes and her skill and artistic ability evolved.

Why silver? Chris says she likes the way it looks and enjoys wearing it. She started making work which she wore herself, rings were followed by earrings, and then complex pieces such as necklaces. She says "I have a love-hate relationship with these complex pieces because there is so much soldering work in them, with the risk of melting other parts of the work by accident".

Chris finds silver quite forgiving in that scraps and errors can be melted down and used again. Gold is much more expensive but beautiful.

Her main love is brooches and she enjoys their ability to make a plain outfit quite special.

Chris enjoys texturing work, including using a rolling mill which can produce different surface effects depending on the material she includes in the milling, and reticulating. Reticulating involves melting the surface of the metal to a liquid which can be worked and produces unexpected effects. She also enjoys the alchemy of putting hot metal into liquid or acid and its results.



*Silver Brooch by Chris Donegan*

Jewellery fulfils a creative need and her family thoroughly approve of her outlet as it makes her happy. Her daughter is good at designs and gifted at wire twisting.

Chris has enjoyed doing the adult courses, as a group of women developed who shared ideas and found synergy as well as camaraderie. She went on to sell Jewellery by word of mouth or on commission in



*Chris Donegan*

specialist shops. She also sold works at the Glenfalloch Art Auction in wooden boxes made by her husband from mahogany and beech wood.

Chris found the recent Open Arts Exhibition to be amazing and made her realise how many talented artists there are living on the Peninsula. She found the exhibition to be well presented and professional, and feels humble to be part of that community. She had a satisfying number of sales and it has raised her profile. She is looking forward to contributing to the support of art on the Peninsula.

**ARTISTS WANTED FOR ART IN THE GARDEN**



As part of the Dunedin Rhododendron Festival we are holding the Art in the Garden event at Glenfalloch on Sunday 17th October from 12.30 till 4pm.

We are inviting artists on the Peninsula to come and work in the Garden for the afternoon and it would be great for most art to be for sale.

If you are just interested in displaying some of your art for sale, the Homestead is open for exhibiting the art. Also, school childrens' art will be in one of the rooms. The Homestead will be manned for the afternoon. We are wanting all forms of art.

If you are keen please contact me:  
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