

NEWSLETTER

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.

'We're Coming to Town' Exhibition



The exhibition was a great success.... and, despite the hard financial times we find ourselves in, we sold twenty pieces of artwork.

Many thanks go out to all who helped make it a success....to all the volunteers that manned the desk, we couldn't do it without you, the Artists that exhibited their work, to Pauline & John for advise and a loan of the plinths. Also to Bruce Hellyer who is always on hand. I would also say a huge thank you to Fiona, our Events Co-ordinator, and the committee who put all this together. To say they worked together like a well oiled machine is putting it mildly. They also had a lot of fun in the process. We are very lucky to have this great group of people to work with.....Thank You... Janet

Left and below: Van Gogh and various other identities captured by Tudor Caradoc Davies at the exhibition opening.



ART TRAIL BROCHURE

The new full colour Art Trail Brochure for the Peninsula is up and running with 20 artists and crafts people represented in it. They include painters, photographers, potters, spinners and knitters, weavers and more.

If you are out and about on the Peninsula with family or friends, don't forget to include the Art Trail on your itinerary. There is plenty of opportunities for buying locally made Christmas gifts or just drop in to meet the artists.



'Art in the Garden'



Above: Written by a young boy when Trish Wilson invited the public at the 'Art in the Garden' day, at Glenfalloch, to write messages on the back of *Brachyglottis greyii* leaves using a feather quill and walnut ink. They left the leaves on the ground throughout the gardens so people could read them. Also see report on page 2.



Otago Peninsula Art Trail

www.openarts.co.nz



A self guided tour of

20

Peninsula Artists

Produced By OPENARTS

Digital Cameras the easy way

Local author Brian Miller has written a pocket guide to show you how to use a compact digital camera



\$ 15

- At last - an easy guide to digital
- The best little book for beginners
- A perfect Christmas present
- Sold 6000 copies since June 08

"I'm blown away by (this) tiny NZ book - packed full of useful hints, and explains the gobbledegook that comes with your manual" - Jan - Nelson Bookseller

Available from: Camera shops - or ring 4761 453 for free delivery on the Peninsula before Xmas.

Artist Profile: Vivian Keenan

Sculptural basketmaker, Vivian Keenan, is a recent migrant to Otago Peninsula from far flung Great Barrier Island.

I started basketmaking in the early 1970s, I had gone to nightclasses to learn pottery, but those classes were full and someone suggested I take the basketmaking class. So here I am 30 or so years on still weaving.

Initially I made utilitarian baskets from palembang cane, - shoppers, log baskets - all those good practical items, but when the import licences were opened up in the late 1980s it was too hard to compete with those cheap imports. For a few years I had my own gardening business and made sculptural pieces, using basketmaking techniques, for exhibitions.

I moved to Great Barrier Island in 2000 and while there decided that I wanted to make my living weaving again. To begin with I made fish traps, large floor

lamps and a series of sculptural shapes using willow, rattan and lots of material that was growing locally such as aleagnus, jasmine convulvulus. These three are all rampant weeds up north and it was good to be able to use them for creating art works. I also harvested supplejack for making frames.

Great Barrier was a challenging place to live and work, a need to be very organised when shopping in Auckland - a 5 hour boat trip or you went without till the next trip. All my materials had to be freighted out to the island and about half of what I made was freighted back off to galleries mainly on North Island. We had a big tourist industry out there so there were good sales opportunities for an artist.

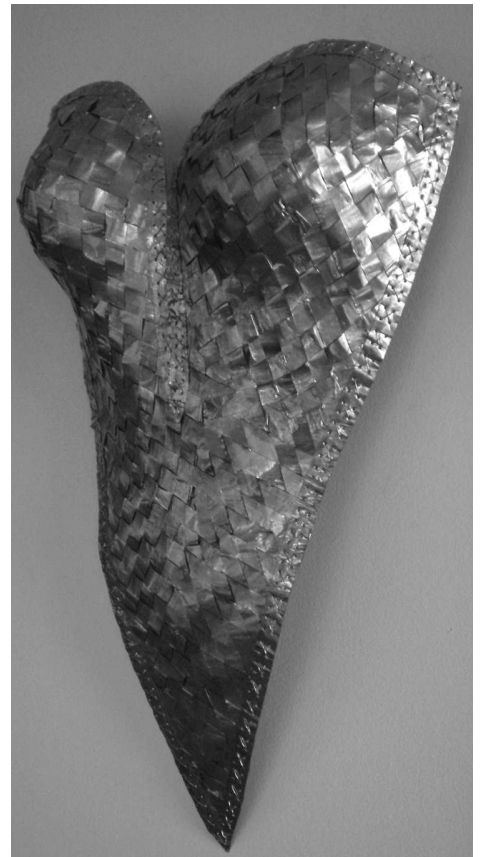
In 2006 I made the decision to leave Barrier and move to Dunedin. I arrived here in late 2007. It wasn't as easy to leave the island as I thought. Places like that have a hold that is sometimes hard to break, but I wanted to live in a small city and be able to have easy access to materials and galleries plus I was missing culture generally. Barrier is a beautiful place but with a population of only about 650 people there was not a lot going on.

I started working with recycled copper in 2003, initially using it along with the other materials. I was weaving to highlight curves and add a little more interest. I am now using it much more. Probably about 70% of my work is in copper - wire hearts, sails, waka and torsos. The sails, waka and torsos have all been new ideas since leaving Great Barrier, which is one aspect of making a shift in your life - it creates a new perspective which I find really exciting.

Dunedin has a vibrant art scene and there are lots of

opportunities for me here. Already I have had two solo exhibitions and have been involved with several group exhibitions. Dunedin also appealed to me as my great grandparents, on my mother's side of the family, were early settlers here and my grandfather, on my fathers side, had the store at Careys Bay for sometime. Thus I feel as though there is a real connection for me here.

I am now living at Tomahawk Beach and have my studio and a B&B there. The Otago Peninsula is a fascinating area, such rich wildlife and stunning landscapes within such easy access of the city - seals and penguins down on the beach here and a great variety of interesting culture just 10 minutes away - it's been a good move.



Above: Vivian Keenan-&-The-Big-Basket. Right: 'Torso 11', recycled copper ribbon by Vivian Keenan

'Art in the Garden' Brilliant Again

Art in the garden was held for the second time within the rhododendron week at the Glenfalloch gardens.

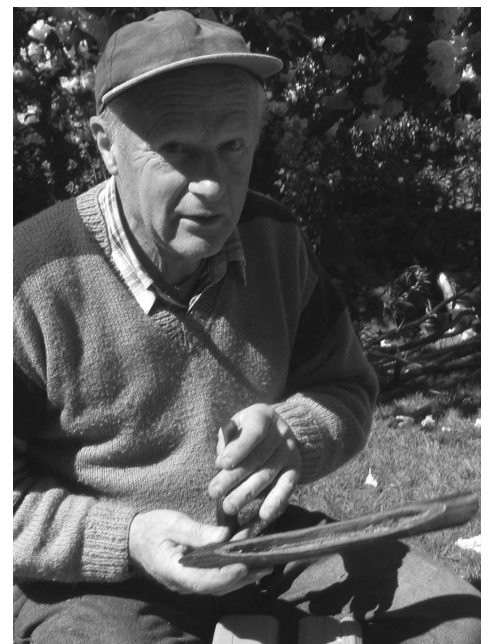
The weather again was great. We had painters and weavers tucked under trees, raku firing at the potters cottage, kids floating flax stem boats, messages written on leaves on the path ways, screen printed seagulls flying on flags and Oamaru stone carving.

The jewellery art studio was humming with visitors and the homestead was alive with an exhibition from local artists. Again the day had a great feel. Lots of local people made the most of the gardens while music was enjoyed as families lounged on the lawn.

Thanks to all that helped set up the homestead and everyone that worked and exhibited in the garden. Cheers Jodie



Above: Trish Wilson made some flax stalk outrigger canoes which children played with in the nearby creek. Right: Bruce Hellyer, having a pocket knife on him, joined in.



Artist Profile: Bev Stephens

Bev was born on the West Coast of the South Island and grew up with an awareness and love of the wild and rugged terrain. As a child with a 'box brownie' camera she experimented in the home bathroom developing and printing her photographs. The terrible stains are probably still on the bath!

Bev's love of photography has resulted in a large portfolio assembled over many years travelling in various parts of the world. She has exhibited in New Zealand, Australia and England.

Contrary to the usual expectations in the 1950's, Bev decided, at 17, to start travelling. She teamed up with a group of young, adventurous people on two-stroke motor cycles and toured NZ doing seasonal work, tobacco picking etc.

They then moved on to Australia and spent time in the outback – she was impressed with the work of Albert Namatjira. He was ignored during his lifetime because the art critics considered his work 'chocolate-boxey'. A reappraisal of his work last year by Australian experts ensured it is now accorded the merit it deserves.

After many years living and working in London and various trips to Europe Bev returned to New Zealand and a life in business in Auckland. A move to the Mangawhai district was the impetus to fulfil a lifelong ambition to paint. The beauty of her work has resulted

in several successful exhibitions and numerous works being hung in homes and offices throughout New Zealand, U.S.A. and the U.K.

A move three years ago to the Otago Peninsula to be near family has renewed her interest in southern land and seascapes.



Above: Bev Stephens at Lands End, England, c1961
Left: 'Into the West' by Bev Stephens

Back Wall Art at St Lees Cafe

John, the owner of St Lees Cafe, would like to have ongoing exhibitions of art on his cafe wall. This is a small space but he has a good number of customers so the art would get good exposure.

If anyone is interested they can contact Vivian on 454 6437. At this time we are planning that each exhibition would run for a month starting at the beginning of each month.



Above: screen printed banner by Manu Berry seen at 'Art In the Garden'

Art Trail Open Day and Art Market Planned (28 Feb-1 Mar)

We are planning an Art Trail Open Day in conjunction with an Art Market at Macandrew Bay Hall on the weekend of 28 February-1st March.

For the Art Market tables and wall space will be provided at a minimal charge to cover costs. Man your own stall. No commissions will be charged.

If you are interested contact Janet Wood on 476 1221. Space will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. All Art Trail participants will be contacted about their availability to see visitors on the day.

Art Workshops



- By the Sea
- One day workshops - small groups
- All levels welcome including absolute beginners.
- Fee includes tuition, all art materials, morning & afternoon teas, light lunch with Lindauer

Contact: Lesley Hirst, 7 Frances St, Broad Bay, Dunedin
Ph: 478 0073 Email: boatshedart@xtra.co.nz

'New Horizons'

Featuring Work by
Cathryn Shemansky, Janet Wood, Vivian Keenan,
Tudor Caradoc Davies, Fiona James, Bev Stephens

Community Gallery, Princes Street (Near the Octagon)
12th December - 23 December, 10.00am - 5.30pm

Newsletter

Disclaimer: Opinions and ideas expressed by contributors in OpenArts News-letter are not necessarily those of the editors and OpenArts Inc.

Contributions: Please send in your news, profiles, reviews, opinion pieces, letters, images & poems.
Contact: Allan: Ph 478 0425, allankynaston@xtra.co.nz

www.openarts.co.nz

WEB SITE

Our infant web site is up and running and ready for further development. Have a look at the site for details on how you and your work and activities can become part of it.

OPEN ARTS INC

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