

ANNUAL REPORT

Background

Positioned on the picturesque Civic Reserve, the 1889 Victorian Italianate Mansion is home for Oak Hill Community Arts Cooperative Ltd. Established in 1999, Oak Hill Gallery has grown from a handful of members to almost 300 financial members. Our reputation as the Mornington Peninsula's Community Gallery has steadily increased over the years. Supported by the Mornington Peninsula Shire, Oak Hill's Board and dedicated volunteers bring a vibrant, exciting, warm and embracing sense of *PLACE* for the Arts Community.

Mission Statement

To operate a Community Arts Centre, designed to promote and develop the arts, our artists and their work and facilitate the experience, enjoyment and appreciation of art in the wider community.

Oak Hill is focussed on enhancing the community's access to cultural experiences and creative engagement in a diverse range of art practices, strengthening community projects and building artist networks by raising the profile of Oak Hill as an Arts destination for the Mornington Peninsula. Oak Hill provides an opportunity for the community to participate, volunteering experiences and a sense of belonging.

Oak Hill gallery provides quality exhibitions by both established and emerging artists and provides community programs to ensure Mornington Peninsula residents and others have enhanced access to cultural experiences.

Oak Hill Gallery provides a comfortable and welcoming *PLACE* for its Members and members of the Community to come together to discuss their art practice etc. The kitchen and one of the gallery rooms has a large communal table in front of the open fire is usually an impromptu meeting place while they chat over coffee or tea. A *Place* where artists can meet.

The Gallery is kept open to the public 7 days a week 11 – 4pm by a team of dedicated volunteers who are trained to inform the visiting public of Oak Hill's facilities and activities. Each Wednesday and Thursday, the Gallery is open until 6.30pm with our After School Art Program.

Current Status

Membership

- Memberships Members – 286
- Friends of Oak Hill - 2 members
- Manager - 10 hours per week
- Book keeper – 4 hours per week
- 5800 volunteer hours
- 4 permanent Job Start recipients total 1040 hours
- Annual Program and monthly invite publications with circulation of 5000

Self Funded

Oak Hill is totally self-funded.

Visitors to Oak Hill

We have had over 28740 Visitors to Oak Hill this 2014-15 year.

Compared to over 40,000 Visitors 2013-14 (due mainly to Archibald Exhibition).

Unfortunately the 2014-15 year did not attract the same numbers. Our promotional material for Little Archie's was unfortunately restricted resulting in visitors not knowing the Little Archie's Exhibition at Oak Hill was nearby. In the 2013-14 year we were allowed to hand to the public our DL size invites to Oak Hill. But this year we were prevented from moving out of our designated area behind the public toilet.

Testimonials

"Dear Yvonne Watson and Kevin Murphy and Board of Directors of Oak Hill Gallery,

Last year we visited Mornington Regional Gallery with our friends from Western Australia. We stayed in a B&B in Mornington.

Our main reason to visit the area was to see the Archibald paintings. We did enjoy seeing them.

As we were driving away we saw the Oak Hill Gallery and we stopped to have a look. We were very impressed with what you do at Oak Hill. First of all it was the lovely old house which caught our attention. We think you have a wonderful set up there and enjoyed looking at the portraits. We liked the experience in your gallery more than the Regional Gallery, the art works are good quality and they look lovely in the old house. The Gallery Shop is very good. Congratulations to you and the artists for what you have achieved there. We will certainly come and visit your gallery next time we are in the area.

Yours sincerely,

Virginia and Ralph Coghill

10 James Street

Williamstown

Phone 03 9397 0217

email rvcoghill@bigpond.com"

"Dear Yvonne

I thought I would write to you and offer my congratulations on the running of Oak Hill Gallery. I joined Oak Hill Gallery in 2011 and since that time I have seen many positive improvements in the management and administration of the Gallery. In my opinion this has been since you have taken over the role as Manager and also in the appointment of the new Committee.

I have always volunteered to "man" the Gallery and since the new Committee, I have been aware of a welcoming and exciting feel to the Gallery. Your initiatives, including running printing workshops, childrens' programs, painting workshops, etc have enticed many members (and others) to participate in these events.

I find that the Gallery now has a professional approach. The quality, hanging of paintings and the standard of the exhibitions is far superior than previously.

Last year I helped "man" the Gallery for the "Little Archies". Your ingenuity to run this exhibition in conjunction with the Archibald was a creative and incredible success. You should also be praised for having members' paintings exhibited in the Main Street at Mornington. This also attracted people to the Gallery and many sold paintings were during the exhibition.

I only wish that the Council could support the Gallery more and fund more advertising, so that more members of the general public could enjoy all the benefits that Oak Hill has to offer.

Yours sincerely

Andy Smith"

Existing and new business sponsorships

Existing

Mornington Peninsula Shire
Tallis Foundation
Southern Buoy Framing & Art Supplies
Neill Wallace Art Supplies
Senior Art Supplies
Northern Peninsula Tourism
Mornington Information Centre
Hill View Quarries
Underground Winemakers
Sorrento Lions
The Grand Hotel Mornington
Those Blokes
RACV Cape Schanck

New

Mt Martha Community House
Mornington Chamber of Commerce
Bittern Market
Men's Shed Hastings
Rose Garden

Mornington Cinema
Masters
Bunnings

Fundraising program and or events

- Partner in Archibald/Little Archie's Exhibition 2014 and 2015
- Little Archie's "Artist's Walk 2014 and 2015 in conjunction with Mornington Chamber of Commerce
- Established \$2 entry fee
- Monthly exhibition openings
- Deck the Walls Gala Event
- Film Night – Mornington Cinema
- Monthly Circle of Friends
- Monthly Fine Art Photography Group meeting
- Book Group meeting
- Artist's Market
- Mornington Community Garden Open Day – Free printmaking and sculpture classes.
Civic Reserve Open Day
- Print Day in May – World-wide event – free printmaking at Oak Hill
- Member of Peninsula Studio Trail (PST), specifically for the "Judy Reekie Residency" Award.
- Oak Hill's Art Space – also now a member of (PST) Peninsula Studio Trail
- Oak Hill was part of the 'Up Pop Hastings' project and established a new gallery ***oakhill@hastings***. Run by members of our volunteer base and created an awareness of Oak Hill in Hastings. Our shop was presented beautifully and was the first one to be rented. A successful outcome for our joint venture with the Westernport Chamber of Commerce

Finance

Activity Statement for the first ten months of this financial year compared with the same period last year and a summary of the increases in the key categories.

Income	\$		\$	
July 2013-April 2014	50531	July 2014-April 2015	94763	+87%
Art Sales	12917		18235	+41%
Commission Art Sales	4907		6328	+29%
Gift Shop Sales	1776		4113	+131%
Gallery Rental	11505		15645	+36%
Classes	11018		27675	+151%
Membership	1919		4619	+140%
Gold Coin Donation	465		5244	+1027%
Expenses	43450		56545	

The increase in expenses is due to one key factor, the Tutor fees which increased by \$9739. This is consistent with the significant increase in income from classes. Other general expenses have been kept in line with the previous financial year.
(2013-3/2013-4 Audited figures attached)

Risk Management Assessments and Mitigating Strategies

- Training sessions conducting ethics and integrity training workshops for volunteers
- Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Policy
- Insurers outline our risk management responsibilities
- Satisfy Model Rules legislative requirements, meeting arrangements, agendas, and minutes of meetings, all aspects of dealing with the Shire
- Public Liability
- Professional indemnity
- Building insurance
- Rent
- Rates
- Volunteers Manual
- Customer service, front of house reception training
- Model Rules (*attached below*)

Marketing and promotions collateral

Unpaid Advertising

- Invitations
- Media partnership Leader Newspaper
- 3rpp
- Social Media, Website, bulk email to members, non members, businesses, media list

Paid Advertising

- Creative Agenda
- Art Almanac
- Mornington Peninsula Magazine
- Adworks
- Print Council of Australia
- Leader Newspaper
- Dark Horse Printing.
- Facebook Sponsored Posts

Education Program

Provide an extensive annual educational program for Adults and Children

Oak Hill has had afterschool and school holiday art classes for 1800 children over the past twelve months. Many parents are seeking out Oak Hill for Art Classes and state that Oak Hill's reputation as the *PLACE* to take their children for Art. At Oak Hill we promote a lifelong

learning and appreciation of art and encourage children to feel comfortable and confident when visiting art galleries.

Oak Hill invite both nationally and internationally recognised artists to also conduct specialist workshops at Oak Hill each year and offer affordable fees, discount for students or health card holders.

Classes have included

- Oil and Acrylic Painting
- Printmaking
- Ceramics and Clay Sculpture
- Mosaics
- Life Drawing
- Collage
- Art Therapy
- Silk Screen printing
- Photoshop

Disability awareness and Social inclusion

We offer programs for people with disabilities and are currently, thanks to a Mornington Peninsula Shire Grant, we are working on a specific printmaking project with Peninsula Support Services (PSS) for submission in the national/internal Silk Cut Awards and an exhibition at Oak Hill.

We have weekly classes with Accommodation Cares (Acares) who work with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the Victorian Work Cover Authority (VWA) to provide disability support to people injured in a transport or workplace accident.

Our Tutors

- **Yvonne Watson B.A.(Hons) Fine Art** - Printmaking
- **Peter Martin B.A. Fine Art, Grad Dip.Ed.** - Painting
- **Janet Groves B.A Ed.** – School Holiday, After School Program
- **Judi Singleton B.A.(Hons) Fine Art** - Painting, Ceramics/Clay Sculpture
- **Tammy Warner Dip Art. Dip Ed.** - Watercolour
- **Dennis Veal Dip Ed. Dip Design, Adv Dip Vis Com** – Life Drawing
- **Silvi Glatteau B.A. Romance languages / Linguistics Photo Etching** – Photo Etching
- **David Frazer B.A. (Hons) Dip.Ed. M.A.-** Wood Engraving
- **Fred Whitson B.A. Grad. Dip Ed.** - Drawing
- **Julie Niekamp Cert 4 Qualified Practicing Artist**– Life Drawing, After School Program
- **Nic Robertson Dip Ed.** – Silk Screen

All our Tutors hold current Working With Children Checks (WWC)

Other Venues used in the presentation of workshops and classes

Rose Garden Tea

- Weekly Life Drawing Classes

External Rear Garden Studio

- Children's Screen Printmaking Classes
- Tammy Warner's Water Colour Workshop
- Silk Screen Printmaking

Laundry Area

- Weekly Printmaking Classes
- Weekly open access to printmaking facilities, press etc

Veranda studio at Oak Hill

(This veranda area is also used to provide free exhibition space for disadvantaged groups and individuals)

- Weekly Printmaking Classes
- Fortnightly Ceramics & Clay Sculpture Classes
- Weekly Acrylic Painting Classes
- Weekly Children's Classes
- Weekly hire to Acares (Accommodation and Care Solutions)
- Previously hired to Art Anarchy for weekly Art Classes for Children aged 6 months to 4 years
- Art Therapy classes

Other Venues where Oak Hill Tutors provide Classes

- Mornington Library
- Rosebud Library
- Mornington Community Gardens Open Day
- Sorrento Studio, Sorrento
- Mt Martha Community House

New advertising program

Creative Agenda Advertising Agency is establishing a program to promote our all day Life Drawing classes in the Rose Garden Tea Rooms – *“Where do you draw the line in Mornington?”* This is the same advertising agency that developed our *“Art Takes Flight”* logo are working on posters, flyers and advertising program to promote these classes and other activities at Oak Hill.

Oak Hill is also focussed on attracting artists nationally and internationally to participate in Annual Award Exhibitions by offering an attractive prize pool. The Tallis Foundation generously, donate \$2000 annually for our Members Exhibition. Southern Buoy, Neil Wallace and exhibition entry fees provide funding for the prize pool offered for other exhibitions on our Annual Program.

Small Business Training

Training in Oak Hill's business model has facilitated some its members with the experience and confidence to embark on their own business activities. Our experience with 'Up Pop Hastings' has established a relationship with the Westernport Chamber of Commerce to embrace our members embarking on their own business by replicating what is on offer at Oak Hill Gallery.

Mt Martha Community house has also seen our members start their own business by conducting Life Drawing Classes each Wednesday.

Oak Hill's Annual Sponsorship Program

- Oak Hill's annual sponsorship for Chisholm Institute of Technology for top graduating Art student Award to the value of \$500 for exhibition space at Oak Hill. Plus a "Highly Commended" Award value \$25 for Annual Membership at Oak Hill.
- Oak Hill established a new sponsorship for Chisholm Institute of Technology 2014 - 2015 for top graduating Art student for the "Judy Reekie Residency" Award to the value of \$6000. This is made up of 12 month residency at Judy Reekie's Studio in Mt Martha, an exhibition of work completed during this residency, an exhibition at Oak Hill Gallery and enrolment in the PST –Peninsula Studio Trail.
- Oak Hill sponsor Annual MPAS – Mornington Peninsula Art Show with Oak Hill Gallery "Best In Show" Award to the value of \$500 for exhibition space at Oak Hill. Each year we also provide MPAS a loan of our exhibition plyths.
- Sponsor Annual Somers Art Show – present "Best in Show" Award to the value of \$500 for exhibition space at Oak Hill. Plus a "Highly Commended" Award value \$25 for Annual Membership at Oak Hill.
- Sponsored Mt Eliza Primary School Art Show – present "Best in Show" Award to the value of \$500 for exhibition space at Oak Hill. Plus a "Highly Commended" Award value \$25 for Annual
- Sponsored Flinders Art Show – to the value of \$500 for exhibition space at Oak Hill. Plus a "Highly Commended" Award value \$25 for Annual. Flinders Art Show raffled this prize and raised funds towards their Art Show.
- Oak Hill has been invited to present Art Classes at the Mornington Peninsula Library for the Shire's Teen Activity School Holiday Program.
- In previous years Oak Hill has provided Classes at Oak Hill as part of the Mornington Peninsula Shire School Holiday Program.

- Each exhibition Oak Hill presents prizes and encouragement awards for both Primary and Secondary School sections by way of vouchers for art materials from Southern Buoy Art Supplies & Framing.
- In 2014 Oak Hill established Annual Print Exchange Portfolio. Local, national and international artists are invited to produce a limited edition of prints. These Portfolios are donated to Mornington Peninsula Shire, MPRG, Print Council of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria.
- Member of the Mornington Chamber of Commerce – worked together on supplying Portraits for Main Street Shop windows each year to coincide with the Archibald at MPRG and ongoing this year for the Salon des Refuses which is held at MPRG October/November 2015.
- Artist’s Market – contributing to bringing people to Civic Reserve.
- Oak Hill also provides a platform for established and emerging musicians who perform at our monthly exhibition openings
- Our monthly “Circle of Friends” encourage Artist’s dialogue and engagement in events, exhibitions etc at Oak Hill.

Gallery Hire

- The current gallery hire fee which includes catering, is \$500 per room per month for Members
- \$585 per room per month for Non-Members

Annual Exhibitions program

Oak Hill provides a twelve monthly exhibitions program featuring Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Printmaking, Drawing, Multi – Media, Mosaics.

2015 Exhibition Program

January 2015

- Debbie MacKenzie – Painting
- Fred Whitson - Drawing/Painting
- Sue Smales – Bark and Glitter
- Ange Garabelli – Art Therapy Exhibition

February

- Peninsula Postcards Exhibition

March

- Judy Reekie Retrospective
- Albert Street Artists
- Hugh Mackay –

April

- Annual Photography Exhibition *Through the Lens* -

May

- Annual Cigar Box Lid Exhibition -
Sponsored by Southern Buoy Art Supplies & Framing
- Catherine Donovan – *A Journey*

June

- David Frazer *Works on Paper*
- Paul McIntyre *Recent Work*
- Sunny Scott *Destinations*

July

- Annual Members Exhibition Sponsored by Tallis Foundation

August

- Annual *True Roots* Printmaking Exhibition

September

- Philippe de Kraan *A Moment in Time*

October/November

- Little Archie's

December

- *Deck the Walls* Annual Affordable Art Exhibition

[2016 Exhibition Program](#)

January

- Annual Peninsula Postcard Exhibition

February

- Volunteers' Exhibition

March

- Naup Waup
- Miodrag Jankovic

April

- Annual Photography Exhibition

May

- Annual Cigar Box Lid Exhibition

June

- Suzanne Kaldor, Bibi Ostermark, Perry Fletcher.

July

- Annual Members Exhibition

August

- Annual *True Roots* Printmaking Exhibition
- Annual Print Exchange Portfolio Exhibition

September

- Water colour Exhibition

October/November

- Little Archies

November

- Annual Peninsula Postcards Exhibition

December

- Annual *Deck the Walls* Affordable Art Exhibition

Develop and manage flexible community facilities and spaces according to community needs.

We are in desperate need of a new Art Space large enough to cater for the growing number of requests for access to our facilities

- After School Art Program
- Life Drawing premises – Currently we have access to the Rose Garden Tea Rooms
- Artists in need of studio space

Maintain and refurbish community buildings to meet agreed service levels

To increase access and participation in the arts and culture and enhance the sense of *PLACE* at Oak Hill, we require a large open space incorporating artist's studios, a work shop area for both adult and children's classes. We also need two extra toilets and a wet area for cleaning after the classes. We do understand that there is a proposed redevelopment of the Civic Reserve and seek a temporary facility at this time.

New Initiatives

- Oak Hill Gallery is now part of the Peninsula Studio trail (PST) and we plan to offer our external rear garden studio for an Artist-In-Residence studio for both national and international exchange opportunities.
- We are planning on group tours for our members to regional galleries and to incorporate Moma in Tasmania, the Sydney Biennale, Adelaide.
- Redesign our Website, set up Mail Chimp for all electronic member notices.

Yvonne Watson
Gallery Director,
Coordinator, Community Arts Program
Oak Hill Community Arts Cooperative Ltd