

Making its Presence felt



Arrowtown artist Mark Hill unveiled his sculpture *Presence* beside the Kelvin Heights walkway in Queenstown yesterday.

Funded by an anonymous donor, the Corten and stainless steel sculpture is the third artwork to be installed beside the walkway/cycleway in the past 14 months, turning the track into somewhat of an art trail, too.

First came three corrugated iron goats, made by Auckland artist Jeff Thomson, and last month a schist and steel "static kinetic sculpture" by Arrowtown artist Shane Woolridge appeared by the walkway.

All three works were funded by anonymous benefactors; the costs are unknown.

Queenstown Trails Trust chairman Tony McQuilkin said the

artworks were making the peninsula walkway a special part of the network. The favourable public reaction created its own momentum, and he hoped to see more appear in the coming years.

Mr Hill said his sculpture depicted "a tree spirit and a water spirit — like a taniwha".

Unlike his other works, which were installed in wide open spaces, he liked the way it blended with the colours and textures of the surrounding trees.

"It almost catches you by surprise as you come across it."

Queenstown Lakes Mayor Vanessa van Uden said the donor was not seeking public acknowledgement, but was doing it "for their own enjoyment, and creating something for this community to appreciate".

REPORT & PHOTO: GUY WILLIAMS

>Omakau

Fire burns across 3ha of grass

By TIMOTHY BROWN

A LARGE fire burnt through 3ha of grassland near Omakau last night.

By 10pm the fire was under control, with the Otago Rural Fire Authority remaining at the scene "mopping up", Fire Service spokesman Tim Reynolds said.

Firefighters from Omakau, Lake Dunstan and Blackstone fought the fire using four appliances, a tanker and two helicopters.

The fire, in Chester mains Rd, was reported about 8.15pm and at its height the front was 600m long.

Principal rural fire officer Dr Stephanie Rotarangi said conditions were favourable for fire-fighting and crews stopped the fire spreading.

A 1ha corner of the fire was their focus about 10.30pm.

The fire was probably started by a mower striking a stone. However, the investigation would continue this morning, she said.

No structures were damaged or threatened.

However, Otago Rural Fire Authority crews remained overnight to monitor the situation, Dr Rotarangi said.

Fire Service and Otago Rural Fire Authority crews also attended a fire at the beach in Queenstown's red zone, close to the CBD.

Firefighters were put on standby about 10.30pm, but the small fire was quickly put out by first responders.

"Otago is experiencing some of its worst fire danger readings since records began."

'MOW EARLY' CALL

● Page 12

WIZEL Rain, light breeze. 21° at 4pm.

TEMATATA Rain, light breeze. 21° at 4pm.

ANFURLY Fine, light E. 17° at 2.15pm.

OAMARU Misty, E breeze. 13.9° at 4pm.

PALMERSTON Rain, light breeze. 14° at 4pm.



MIDDLEMARCH Cloudy, light breeze. 19° at 4pm.

DUNEDIN Drizzly, light breeze. 13.5° at 1.30pm.

MOSGIEL Drizzly, light SE. 14° at 1.30pm.

BALCLUTHA Cloudy, light breeze. 13° at 4pm.

GORE Fine, SE breeze. 16.2° at 1.30pm.

TODAY'S FORECAST • p35