

Anonymous art donor delivers for third time

An anonymous Queenstown art donor has struck again.

For the third time the Kelvin Peninsula loop track has been the recipient of a large commissioned sculpture from an unknown benefactor.

A corten and stainless steel piece called *Presence*, built and designed by Mark Hill, son of Sir Michael Hill, was unveiled on the track at a ceremony yesterday.

Hill said even he was unaware who the donor was.

Queenstown Lakes District Mayor Vanessa van Uden said "they (the donors) are not doing this for public acknowledgment but their own joy and for the community".

"I think we are very lucky to have people in this community who put back like this and create something we all can enjoy.

"I respect their decision to be anonymous," she said.

Queenstown Trail Trust chairman Tony McQuilkin said the organisation was approached by the donors three years ago.

The first work by Auckland artist Jeff Thomson featured three wild goats, made of corrugated iron, perched on rocks overlooking Lake Wakatipu and was installed in November 2013.

While staying tight-lipped about the donor, it was known they were not permanent residents but did have a holiday house in the area.

"They are passionate about art and passionate about New Zealand art. They're just so private and generous," McQuilkin said.

It was envisaged more works were going to be given.

Last month a slate and schist art piece by well-known Queenstown sculptor Shane Woolridge was unveiled.

The "static kinetic sculpture" captured a unique view of Walter Peak.

It was unknown how much money had been spent on the three works.



Arrowtown sculptor Mark Hill with his corten and stainless steel piece called *Presence*, unveiled on the Kelvin Peninsula loop track after being commissioned by an anonymous donor. Photo: CHE BAKER/FAIRFAX NZ 630355295