

Real Art Roadshow

By Rosemary Brader



A pressed leaf brooch created by jeweller Lynn Kelly of Dunedin, whose work is part of Gallery 33's latest exhibition, *A Beautiful Place*.

Smith from Whitianga. Jewellery designer Lynn Kelly's work is part of the exhibition and she will be among some of the artists at tonight's preview. During the weekend one of the Real Art Roadshow trucks will be open at Pembroke Park and free for people to see.

Two trucks, one black, one silver, travel around secondary schools in New Zealand, taking art to the people.

The Real Art Roadshow book is a fine-quality print book, printed in Hong Kong, published by Fiona's charitable trust in conjunction with Craig Potton publishing, with a foreword by Hamish Keith.

"Real Art" is coming to town this weekend - art in a truck.

It's the Real Art Roadshow, the brainchild of Wanaka woman Fiona Campbell. As well, a book about the RAR will be launched tonight at Wanaka's Gallery 33, in conjunction with the gallery's latest exhibition, "*A Beautiful Place*."

The exhibition features Auckland artists Richard Adams, Don Binney and Michel Tuffery, Bing Dawe from Christchurch, Paul Dibble from Palmerston North and Michael

RAR a Trademe spinoff

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An early investment in Trademe and a profitable sale of shares is behind the establishment of the Real Art Roadshow.

Fiona Campbell, who has been living in Wanaka for the past five years, said after she sold her Trademe shares to Fairfax, she became "rather wealthy" overnight.

An artist, Fiona had been inspired as a student when Gary Brain, a timpanist with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, visited schools, taking

the music to the people.

This gave her the idea of taking art to secondary schools, "free and hassle-free", especially to schools in geographically-isolated areas. In the school term holidays the trucks are taken to the general public and attract all sorts of people who would not normally visit art galleries.

Fiona embarked on a year-long project of buying art, with the help of two curators, Rob McLeod, formerly a teacher

at Wellington High School and an established artist, and Gerald Barnett, formerly of the Mahara Public Gallery and the National Art Gallery.

That year was a great deal of fun and ended with 127 works having been collected. Fiona won't be drawn on the value of the collection, other than "lots" of dollars, but said it costs \$18,000 a year to insure it. One of the two trucks was launched at Wanaka's Pembroke Park in 2008.

Now Fiona spends her time between Wanaka and Wellington where the Real Art Roadshow charitable trust is based.

She's not practising her art as much these days - but admits to being a winner in the adults "novelty vegetable sculpture" section at the recent A and P show.

Fiona said she has an amazing team working for her on the road show, with three truck drivers, two fulltime and one relief and five staff in total.

"They (the drivers) do their job with such panache and enthusiasm." She said most of the staff were not familiar with art when they started but now had favourites.



REAL ART ROADSHOW founder and director Fiona Campbell, right, of Wanaka and Wanaka's Gallery 33 manager Lydia Baxendell study the Real Art Roadshow book to be launched at the gallery tonight (Thursday).