

# Isabell's fence is the best, bra none

BY KIM QUINLAN  
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ISABELL O'Neill's underwear is causing quite a stir at Blackwood.

Since Easter, Ms O'Neill's bras have been on display for all the world to see.

But don't worry, she hasn't been parading half-naked through the streets of the tiny hamlet. Her bra display is all in the name of art.

During a conversation over a quiet gin and tonic with visitors from the UK and United States, the topic came up of how easy it was to create something and call it art.

Ms O'Neill joked that hanging bras on the front fence could be considered artistic. So, as a joke, she rummaged through her underwear drawer to find a few pairs of unloved bras, bought several more from op shops and hung them over the front fence of her Terrill St home.

What started out as a display of 10 bras has mysteriously grown to 20. "They just appear overnight. People pinch pegs from my clothesline to attach the bras, so now I'm running out of pegs," Ms O'Neill said.

And the bras on her fence come in all shapes, sizes and colours, ranging from a green lacy 12B to a larger pair of purple 20DDs. There is even a pair all the way from the UK.

"As well as a joke, the fence is a bit of a social experiment to see how many people are offended by the bras. I haven't had any complaints, just more bras," Ms O'Neill said.

The bra fence has also attracted many curious onlookers. "There are always cars driving by slowly so that people can have a good look. I duck behind my washing if I see someone slowing down."

The Terrill St fence had similar origins to the famous Cardrona Bra Fence in Central Otago, New Zealand. That fence began in 1999 when four bras were attached to the wire fence alongside a road. By 2006 there were close to 800 bras attached. The fence was removed later that year after it was deemed a traffic hazard, but its removal led to an attempt to make the world's longest bra chain at a festival in Wanaka, New Zealand. The chain reached 7400 bras, more than 100,000 short of the world record, but raised \$10,000 for charity.

Ms O'Neill hopes to turn her bra fence into a fundraiser for breast cancer research and she is open to ideas.

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IN THE NAME OF ART: Blackwood resident Isabell O'Neill's bra art installation along her front fence has grown as people add to the collection. Picture: Jeremy Bannister