



Friends News

Winter 2018

Winning Formula

We are all still glowing from a successful May Plant Sale – with sales up 50% from last year. Though we're not yet quite sure of what made up the precise winning formula we must certainly thank the Garden staff, the volunteers and the nurseries: Blue Mountain; Blueskin; Otago Polytechnic; Mitre 10 Mega; Bluestone Nursery and Youthgrow Nursery all of whom generously donated the plants.

Volunteers' Week NZ is our chance to thank all the Garden volunteers for the contribution they make, it's worth remembering the Shelly Anderson quote 'Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.' The work of our volunteers doesn't go unrecognised. We are currently recruiting volunteers for the Garden Information Centre, if you have a morning or afternoon to spare that you would like to donate to the worthy cause of the Dunedin Botanic Garden then please get in touch with us, either by email to friends@friendsdbg.co.nz, by phone to 03 471 9275 or by completing an application form on the Botanic Garden website.

This is the winter newsletter and although the solstice is behind us the greater part of winter still lies ahead. Despite the colder and sometimes quite bleak weather there is still lots to see, smell and do in the Garden. The biennial Science Festival is back in Dunedin from 6 to 15 July with a line-up of over 200 events. You can find the full programme online at www.scifest.org.nz or you can pick up a programme at the Information Centre. There's something for everyone at the Garden and the events are all free, so check out the programme overleaf.

Upcoming AGM

Since our last AGM we made a commitment to improve communications with our membership, we hope you've noticed!

This year's AGM will be held on Sunday 26 August at 3pm in the Information Centre. The committee are pleased to have newly honoured member of the Friends, Emeritus Professor Helen Leach ONZM to speak. The title of her talk will be *The Rise (and Fall?) of the Fashionable Potager* an appropriate segue into the launch of our upcoming fundraising project – The Demonstration Gardens. Refreshments will be available and everyone, members and non-members are all most welcome to join us.

Information Centre & Propagation Group

Louise Kilby, Volunteer Coordinator

■ The Centre is warm and cosy even on cold rainy days. Views from the windows show the newly planted bed of kaka beak already flowering; an appropriate plant, as this is the Garden and the Friend's logo. Early camellias are also putting on a colourful display and we are enjoying the antics of the bellbirds, fantails and the occasional keruru among the surrounding trees and shrubs.



■ The Propagation Group has had a short break following our very successful May Plant Sale. Thanks are due to all the staff, volunteers and committee members for all their hard work beforehand and on the day of the sale. We are back in action preparing for Rhododendron Day on Sunday 14 October and look forward to your support. If you would like a stall at the sale please get in touch by emailing friends@friendsdbg.co.nz. If you have surplus plant pots in good condition we will happily recycle these, please drop them off at the Information Centre.

NZ Horticultural Experiences

My name is Skye Donnelly, a horticultural intern at Dunedin Botanic Garden. I am based in the Rock, and Water and Alpine Collections, with collection curator Robyn Abernethy until June 2018 where I'll be extending my knowledge in the area of collection maintenance and management. My background is in environmental science having graduated from the University of Dundee with an MA (Hons) in Environmental Sustainability and from Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh with an RHS Level 2 in Horticulture. I started work in grounds maintenance and horticulture in natural heritage gardens, at Cambo Estate in Scotland. I have been in New Zealand for 8 months and have enjoyed working for a retirement village and Auckland Botanic Gardens over the summer. I look forward to other horticultural experiences and opportunities while here in New Zealand. Come July 2018 I will be taking up a one year internship at Propagation with Alice Lloyd-Fitt.

What's On

Science Festival Event These events are free but have a limited capacity so make sure you book early through the Science Festival website (www.scifest.org.nz). Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear warm clothes and good footwear.

Exhibition - This Earth, My Body

1 July - 30 September 2018, DBG Information Centre
The planet we live on is an extension of our biological systems. We are intricately connected and reliant, organs in a greater super-organism. To function in a harmonious way in this great system is to care for our own flesh and breath.

HortTalk – Planting Natives, 30 years of tips and tricks from Moira Parker (STOP Inc)

Friday 6 July, noon, DBG Information Centre
Save The Otago Peninsula will share their experience including what to plant in different habitats, and how to be successful in the face of different pests.

Nature Detective Great Weed Mystery

Monday 9 July, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Wednesday 11 July, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Dial 9 and 11 July for Nature Detectives to help solve the puzzle – where's the old man's beard? Was it a crime of passionfruit? Do you know a child who enjoys solving puzzles? We need your help to solve a nature puzzle. Meet at the Information Centre.

Something Fishy in the Gardens

Monday 9 July, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Wednesday 11 July, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Through electro-fishing, fyke netting and fish IDs learn about the importance of healthy rivers to healthy communities. See fresh water fish and stream invertebrate displays with a focus on stream health.

Lichens Up Close

Monday 9 July, 2.30 – 3.30pm
This guided walk with Dr Allison Knight (Research Associate in the Botany Department of the University of Otago) will reveal some of New Zealand's exceptionally rich lichen flora. Meet at the Information Centre. This event is not suitable for those in wheelchairs.

What Do People Think?

Tuesday 10 July, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Friday 13 July, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Ever wondered what's inside people's heads? A survey might tell you exactly what they think. Using a treasure map, you'll go on a hunt around the Botanic Garden and meet all sorts of characters on your way.

Seven Climates Under One Roof

Tuesday 10 July, 10.30 – 11.30am
Thursday 12 July, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Plants from around the world live in a range of climates, from steamy to dry, hot to cold. Go behind the scenes to see the amazing plants, feel the diverse climates and learn how staff keep plants growing so well.

Pollen-in-a-box

Wednesday 11 July, 10am – 3pm
Thursday 12 July, 10am – 3pm
Be amazed by the hidden world of pollen, flowers and pollinators - with family fun activities and science in a converted shipping container. Learn about corpse plant pollination, moths and more.

Pop-up Library

Wednesday 11 July, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Visit the pop-up library at the Botanic Garden Information Centre where there will be books for the whole family to browse and borrow and fun craft-based activities for children to make and take home. Remember to bring your library card.

Backstage at the Aviary

Thursday 12 July, 10.30 – 11.30am
Friday 13 July, 10.30 – 11.30am
Meet the birds living in the Aviary and see what they get up to. Learn about the needs and conservation issues for birds from New Zealand and around the world.

HortTalk – The Hidden Life of Lichens

Friday 3 August, noon, DBG Information Centre
Hidden in full view, there is a rich assemblage of over 100 species of lichen at Dunedin Botanic Garden, some quite conspicuous. Allison Knight will illustrate a selection.

Rose Pruning Demonstration

Saturday, 21 July, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Don't be daunted anymore. Rose pruning is easy once you learn a few tips from the experts.

Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden AGM

Sunday 26 August, 3pm, DBG Information Centre
Our guest speaker is Prof Helen Leach ONZM, the title of her presentation is The Rise (and Fall?) of the Fashionable Potager. Refreshments will be available and everyone, members and non-members are all most welcome to join us.

Contact Details

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Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden is an incorporated society formed in 1986 to support the Dunedin Botanic Garden.
Charity Registration Number CC33448

This newsletter is available online. If you would like to help us by opting to receive news and updates by email, email us at friends@friendsdbg.co.nz with the subject line 'E-Newsletter'.