



# Friends News

Spring 2018

## Propagation opportunity

The refurbishment of the Winter Garden glasshouse is well underway. The total refurbishment both inside and out includes glass replacement, repairs to window frames, doors, the metal structure, painting, floor levelling and drainage. The climate-control system which maintains its heat and humidity settings will also be upgraded.

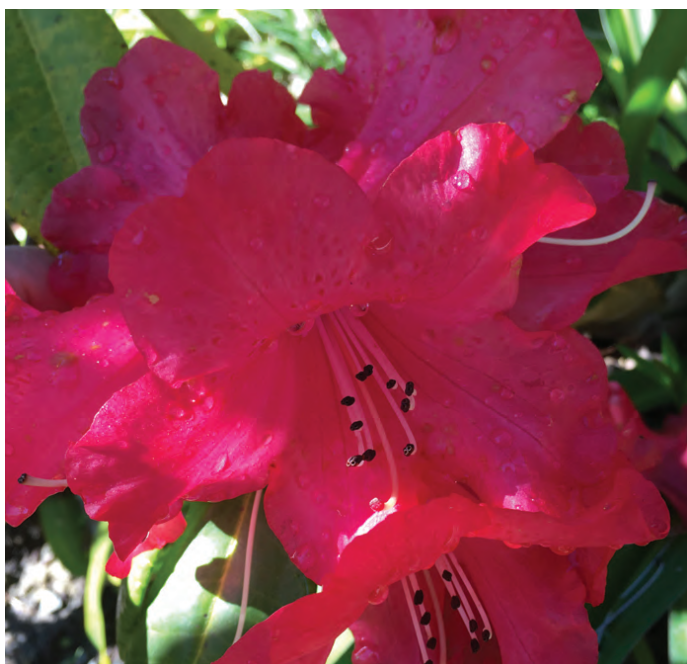
All the plants from the glasshouse were moved to the propagation facility where the Garden staff have divided the plants and taken cuttings. This diverse collection of plants includes a range of cacti and succulents, mainly from the American and African continents, that have adapted in many weird and wonderful ways to the extreme environments that they live in.

Volunteers from the Propagation Group have been working hard potting all these specimens on and the results of their labours can now be found for sale at the Information Centre. Google Trends confirm a worldwide renewed interest in indoor plants, reaching a five-year high in March 2018 and this is certainly reflected in our plant sales.

The Propagation Group have also been busy preparing for the Rhododendron Day Sale. A large selection of plants, both well known and unusual, from the various collections have been generously donated to the Friends by the Botanic Garden collection curators.



Left to right: Jo, Gail and Julz, volunteers from the Propagation Group.



Join the Rhododendron Dell Curator, Doug Thomson for a free guided tour of the Dell. Meet at 10am at the Dell entrance sign.

## Rhododendrons, glorious or garish?

Sunday 14 October brings our annual Rhododendron Day Plant Sale. No matter whether you find them glorious or garish this is the time to view the spectacular Rhododendron Dell in all its glory. It's also a wonderful day to catch up with friends and fellow plant lovers and spend some time walking around the Upper Garden.

It's not just about rhododendrons, we are fortunate to have a wide range of stalls and a variety of plants and crafts, there will also be coffee and a BBQ on site. This is a great opportunity to find plants at affordable prices and pick up some expert advice. Amongst the plants available there will be trees, shrubs, NZ natives, alpiners, perennials, herbs and vegetables.

The Propagation Group are running low on plant pots so look out for our Pot Drop stall this year and bring along your used pots for recycling.

The sale is held at the Upper Garden car park, off Lovelock Avenue between 9am and 1pm, rain or shine and it's not too late to book a stall. If you are interested please call Gail Loughrey on 021 511 203.



# Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden

## Annual Report

August 2018

This report outlines the Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden's achievements from August 2017 to July 2018.

Being new to both Dunedin and to the Botanic Garden it has been wonderful getting to know them both and appreciating what is undoubtedly the most popular visitor attraction of this city although, sadly, seriously under-resourced.

### Education

Botanic gardens the world over are invaluable in raising awareness of plant conservation issues and the importance of species diversity. They kindle an interest in plants as well as potentially teaching children where food comes from, or fostering a love of nature and the natural environment.

A priority for the committee this past year has been to seek funding to reinstate an Education Officer for the Garden. A dedicated, full-time teacher would enable the Garden to provide a rich, hands-on, sensory learning experience for thousands of local school students, approximately 3,300 are within walking distance. An education programme would inspire curiosity and fascination and encourage scientific inquiry about the world's plants. The Dunedin Botanic Garden is an ideal environment to learn about plant identification and increase awareness and appreciation of plants and why our lives depend on them

We have been seeking funding for a full time equivalent education position but, to date, two funding bodies have turned us down while a submission to the Dunedin City Council 10 year plan also failed to secure any funding.

### Scholarship

Early in the year the committee agreed that the proceeds from the Rhododendron Plant Sale would be used to launch the David Tannock Scholarship to assist with professional development for the Garden staff. The first recipient of the award is collection curator Dylan Norfield who will be heading to Tasmania to explore possible seed exchange and other reciprocal opportunities with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

### Membership

The committee devoted some time this year to considering ways to boost membership, deciding a simplification of categories and reduction in fees was an option to be trialled and is being presented here today for members consideration - we welcome your feedback.

During these discussions committee members were reminded by Mick Reece of a unique membership incentive worth repeating here. As a member you can submit a



request for a plant you've seen growing in the Garden and, within reason, the propagation staff will endeavour to grow it for you.

The loss of the newsletter compiler and an outdated website meant that communication with our members had been scant. It was a priority to reinstate a newsletter as soon as possible and both paper and email versions now exist. The website has had a considerable makeover and now meets members expectation of the ability to pay their subscriptions online.

The Friends are now affiliate members of the Australian



Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens, a link to their newsletter - *Eucalypt*, will be posted on our website for our members to enjoy. The Friends are also now members of the Kindred Group.

The committee have awarded Honorary Life Membership to the following members: Graeme & Margaret Collie; Audrey & Eion Thurlow; Maisie & Gordon Pagel; Mr & Mrs Sinclair; Mrs Sylvia Girvan; Mrs Agnes Pratt; Mrs Lesley Barringer and Toni Wilson.

### Information Centre

We are very fortunate to have a great team of volunteers who generously give their time to the Garden each week. Of particular note this year were two volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty to open the centre on Christmas Day to accommodate the two cruise ships docked in town. Thanks to you all.

The Information Centre shop houses a very limited amount of stock. We hope, as finances and time allow, to address this deficiency and extend our range to feature a range of quality, botanically themed items including ceramics, jewellery, prints and cards and a range of gardening books and magazines.

### Plant Sales

We applaud the Garden staff for all the work in preparation for the annual plant sales. Both the Rhododendron Day and the May sales saw an increase in takings. The proceeds from the May plant sale were up 50% from last year.



Thank you to the following nurseries for their generous support enabling us to host these annual plant sales: Blue Mountain Nurseries; Goodlife Gardens; Neale & Craig McLanachan; Blueskin Nurseries; Hereweka Nursery; Mitre 10 Mega; Bluestone Nursery; Hokonui Alpines; Otago Polytechnic; Broad Bay Boating Club; Iris Society; David Lyttle; Wake Robin Nursery; James Cordery; Mick & Susan McKenzie; Youthgrow Nursery.

### Committee Comings and Goings

This past year saw five new members joining the Friends committee: Mick Reece; Susan Hellyer; Ros Hughes; Julz Asher and myself joined Jeremy Shearer; Caroline Byrne, Adele Poulter, Kathryn Thatcher; Gail Loughrey and Louise Kilby. Thank you all for your support. Sadly our secretary Caroline Byrne who has served on the committee for nine years is standing down. Caroline has been a very active member of the committee working hard to establish regular guided tours for visitors to the Garden. We thank her for her contributions. Past president Adele Poulter has also elected to step down, having served as president for three years and

as past president for this last year.

### Garden Successes

Congratulations to all the Garden staff involved with the spectacular show this summer that was the rare giant, the titan lily or corpse flower - aka *Amorphophallus titanum*. The attraction brought in record visitor numbers, estimated to be around 10,000, over the weekend of its long-awaited opening.



The committee also join the staff in celebrating the retention of their six star status of a garden of international significance. A big achievement, especially since there has been no increase in staff since 1996 and there is a huge reliance on trainees.

It's great to see the Winter Garden undergoing its long-awaited renovation, we look forward to a grand re-opening.

### Looking Ahead

Early in the year the Curator, Alan Matchett presented the committee with plans to develop the Upper Garden. The committee saw many advantages and educational opportunities to the Demonstration Garden and agreed to commit \$50,000 to the project. Happily, The Dunedin Amenities Society could also see the community engagement potential and have pledged \$20,000.

With no additional funding granted to the Garden in the council's 10 Year Plan, the Friends have a busy time ahead making funding submissions to support the development and maintenance of the Garden. Our list includes items we submitted to the 10 year plan process:

- Additional funding for the Demonstration Garden.
- Educational programmes to be prepared and delivered at the Garden for schools (and other community learning groups).
- Maintenance and renewal of high use built assets such as the Tea Kiosk and Information Centre.
- Renewal and restoration of heritage and operational assets including Tannock's House, upper garden staff and workshop building, aviary and lower garden bandstand.
- Completion of the works at the new propagation facility on Lovelock Avenue.
- Improvement of the public facilities in the upper garden for parking, toilets and manoeuvring of coaches.
- Improvement of the parking for buses (and also cars) in the lower garden area as the public parking on roads adjacent to the BG becomes increasingly under pressure and the demand for tour buses parking increases with each year.

The committee thank you, our members and Alan Matchett and his team for their support during the year.

**Lesley Smith**, President  
Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden

## On Retreat



A lot of visitors to the Information Centre are asking the whereabouts of the Winter Garden goldfish during its refurbishment. They, along with hundreds of plants are being well cared for at the Propagation Facility.



# Rhododendron Day PLANT SALE Sunday 14 October 9am - 1pm

Free guided tour of the  
Rhododendron Dell, 10am to 11am

Upper Garden Car Park  
Lovelock Avenue, Dunedin

## What's On

### Exhibition - This Earth, My Body by Amy Archer

Until 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.

### Free Museum Bus Loop Returns

1 October – 12 October, 10am – 5pm weekdays

The free bus loop is back for these school holidays. Starting at the Dunedin Botanic Garden, the bus travels past Otago Museum to Toitū Otago Settlers Museum, over to the Dunedin Public Art Gallery and passes Otago Museum as it returns to the Botanic Garden - it's free and departs every hour.

### HortTalk –

#### Partnership in Action: restoring a wetland

Friday 5 October, noon, DBG Information Centre

This month we'll hear from Craig Wilson (DOC) and Glen Riley (Te Nohoaka o Tukiaua coordinator) about the ways they are supporting each other to restore Sinclair Wetlands.

### Rhododendron Day Plant Sale

Sunday 14 October, 9am – 1pm, Upper Car Park

Browse over an amazing range of plants and pick up bargains galore and expert advice.

Join Rhododendron Dell Curator, Doug Thomson, for a free guided tour of the Rhododendron Dell. Meet at 10am at the Dell entrance sign.

### HortTalk –

#### Predator Free Dunedin: where are we at?

Friday 2 November, noon, DBG Information Centre

Representatives of the Predator Free Dunedin collective will update us on the progress and techniques for achieving this ambitious goal. Speakers will also outline what's coming up and how you can be involved.

### 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.

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