



Friends News

Summer 2017

Christmas Drinks

The festive season starts early for us and it's a double celebration as we acknowledge the efforts of our volunteers on International Volunteer Day. Come along to the Information Centre on Tuesday 5 December from 4.30pm and catch up with fellow volunteers over some tasty food and drinks. The invitation extends to all members of the Friends of Dunedin Botanic Garden – we look forward to seeing you.

New Scholarship Launched

The Friends of Dunedin Botanic Garden, in partnership with the Garden, are pleased to announce the launch of a new scholarship – The David Tannock Scholarship. The scholarship, funded with proceeds from the annual Rhododendron Day Plant Sale will allow a deserving member of the DBG staff to meet their professional objectives. Recipients will be announced in a future newsletter.

Rhododendron Day

Thanks to all participants in the plant sale this year, including stall holders, buyers, propagation volunteers and fellow committee members who manned the stall, this was our most successful sale to date.

Lesley Smith, FofDBG President

Conservation Conference

*NZ Plant Conservation Network Conference,
14-18 November 2017*

The Plant Conservation Network is a made up of hundreds of members interested in protecting and restoring New Zealand's indigenous plants, focusing on those plants that require conservation management for their continued survival. The NZPCN's biennial conference is a chance to connect into this web of plants people to hear and share ideas, keep up with current threatened plant research, and look at ways to work together across disciplines and organisations.

During two days of formal presentations we heard from a variety of speakers from academia, government organisations, NGOs and community groups. There were updates on some of the latest research into plant taxonomy, ecology, distributions and populations. We also heard stories of the many ways individuals,



organisations and communities have been working together to achieve conservation outcomes.

The second part of the conference consisted of workshops and field trips. I tried my hand at nature journaling with botanical artist Jo Ogier, while Carla and Stephanie learned about lichen, moss and fern identification. For the field trip we all travelled up to Denniston Plateau. The climb through *Dracophyllum traversii* forest (pictured above) to the unique rocky summit of Denniston's Mt William was a highlight of the conference for me, as was spending some time surrounded by a diverse and inspiring community of plant experts.

Kate Caldwell, Native Plant Collection Curator

Training and Educational Happenings

This year we introduced a change to how we manage our apprenticeships, but it will not be fully effective until 2019. In order to align the financial years of Dunedin City Council and 4Trades Apprenticeships (the organisation that employs the apprentices) the start date for apprentices has been changed from February to July. There are some additional benefits of starting apprentices in winter rather than late summer which we hope to benefit from as well.

A change outside our control that has come to effect this year are changes to qualifications and unit standards. Following a nationwide qualification review (Targeted Review of Qualifications, or TROQ for short) all training providers must rewrite their programmes to align with the new guidelines. This work is likely to continue to affect training programmes right through to 2020. This will be no small task even for our training provider Otago Polytechnic. The other change has been to the cumbersome qualification name 'National Certificate in Horticulture (Amenity) Level 4 Advanced' now to be called 'NZ Certificate in Horticulture (Amenity) Level 4'.

The first of the new apprentices to join us on the July intake are Blake Kuiper who has come to us from Australia after having completed a Bachelor of

Environmental Science and Management at the University of Newcastle, Briar Alexander from Christchurch and is new to horticulture and Kyla Mathewson from Dunedin who had only just graduated from a Postgraduate Diploma Science majoring in Botany. In addition, we have Stephanie Sinton, one of the top graduates from the Otago Polytechnic Level 4 Horticulture programme, who is on a 12 month trainee placement with us and because of the changes mentioned above will be the last graduate of the National Certificate in Horticulture (Amenity) Level 4 Advanced.

It's been a busy year with short and long-term stays by overseas interns. Currently we have Jonathon Wilson (RBG Edinburgh), William Stanger (Professional Gardeners Guild, UK) and Thom de Jong (HAS Den Bosch, Netherlands) with us. Kelly Brown (University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, Canada) Megan Ireland (Tresco Abbey Gardens, UK) and Camille Couteau (Agrocampus Quest, France) have completed their assignments and have returned home. For 2018 we have a student from HAS Den Bosch, Netherlands and one from the University of Tennessee, USA signed up and eager to get here.

Recently 29 University of Otago Summer School



students spent two days in the Botanic Garden to complete practical components of the 'Botany 303' course. This is the second year this course has run and provides a real interaction opportunity for both students and BG staff. We in the BG take for granted the finer intricacies of how a botanic garden operates, but for most university students that's not the case and there is a real opportunity for us to showcase and discuss our purpose and how we manage plant collections, propagate plants and otherwise open their eyes up to what is done here. From this interaction we have two students keen to volunteer to find out more and look at what a career in horticulture at a botanic garden can provide – a great chance to make well informed career decisions for those students.

In addition to this, other University students are regularly visiting the Botanic Garden to carry out work on various research projects - this summer we have 4 projects:

- establishing if individuals of silver-eyes with the same 'migratory' gene variant preferentially mate with one another
- flower colour measurement of native flowers and researching foraging behaviour of native

bees to examine their pollen loads

- genetic sequencing and studying the relationship between the earwig and its parasite, a mermithid worm
- characterising the genetic diversity and assessing sperm quality in male silvereyes, dunnocks and blackbirds to establish whether there is a link between genetic diversity and sperm quality in these species.

Lastly, an update on one of our apprentice graduates, Pippa Lucas who is now working at Auckland Botanic Gardens and who competed at the National Final of the Young Horticulturist of the Year. Pippa acquitted herself extremely well, gaining 3rd overall. In doing so she won the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project (her project was on a blog/vlog concept, designed to raise youth awareness about a career in horticulture), the Primary ITO Career Development Award and the T&G Practical Activities Award, altogether receiving \$7,500 in scholarship funding to assist her career development and additional study opportunities.

Barbara Wheeler, Collections Supervisor

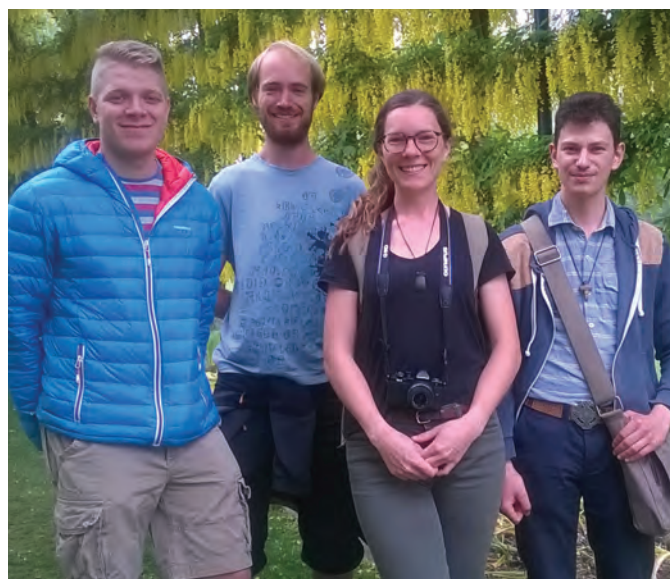
A Canadian Experience

I'm on the verge of finishing an eight-week internship here at the Garden with mixed feelings about heading back home to Vancouver, Canada. What a wonderful botanic garden this is. During my time here I have spent four weeks in the Native Collection with Kate and Stephanie, and four weeks in the Geographic Collection with Dylan and Morgan.

Working in the Native Collection was a perfect way to start my time here and learn about New Zealand's flora. I was also lucky enough to tag along with the Botanical Society of Otago's day trip to Flat Top Hill in Central Otago. Going on a hike with local botanical experts and seeing your native plants in their natural habitat was definitely a highlight of my time here.

The Geographic Collection has been an exciting place to work as well, with such a large area to cover and so many new plants to learn that we can't grow in Canada. I love how every collection within the Geographic has a different atmosphere, each matching the region that it is representing.

Since working here I have been reminded of how amazingly resilient plants are. It has been neat seeing them grow and thrive in a different environment to what I am used to. I am leaving as a more confident



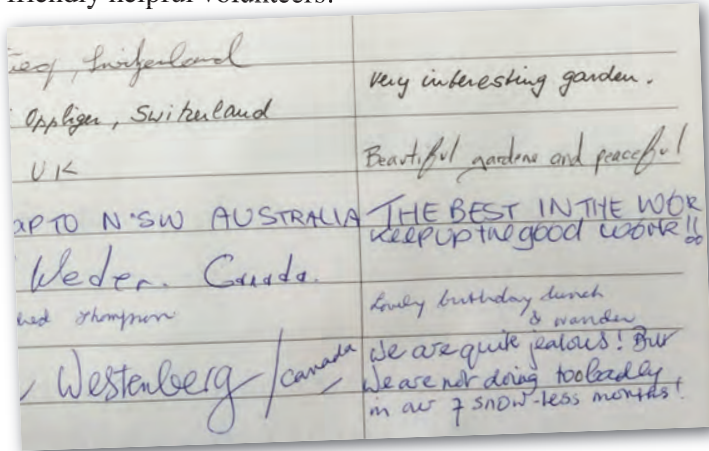
Thom de Jong, Jonathon Wilson, Kelly Brown and William Stanger at Larnach Castle

gardener and will take what I've learnt to my work back home. These past eight weeks have been truly fantastic, and I can't thank the staff and other volunteers here enough for making it such a memorable experience.

Kelly Brown
Landscape Horticulture Graduate, UBC Botanic Garden,
Vancouver, Canada

Information Centre & Propagation Group

■ A browse through our visitors' book at the Information Centre shows how much tourists and locals alike appreciate our beautiful garden. Without exception the comments are positive often including praise for our friendly helpful volunteers.



■ We are enjoying meeting and chatting with people from all over the world. Our busiest season is just beginning and sales are increasing.

■ Lost property is often brought in to the Centre by visitors or members of staff, if you've visited us lately and are missing something please call in it's always pleasing when people are reunited with their possessions. Valuables are taken to the Police and other items, if unclaimed after three months, are donated to the local Opportunity Shop.

■ Propagation activities continue with the pricking out and potting up of seedlings, some of which will not be ready to sell for another year or two. Basic tasks like weeding and tidying will be carried on over the holiday period. Then it will be all hands on deck preparing for the 2018 May Sale.

■ The Rhododendron Day Sale was most successful. The weather was fine until a light drizzle towards the end of the day, customers were happy and relaxed and the stallholders were satisfied with their sales.



■ My personal thanks go to all the Botanic Garden staff, committee members and volunteers for their support during the year. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a restful summer holiday.

Louise Kilby, Volunteer Coordinator

What's On

Exhibition - Plant Life by Kerry Fenton John

1 October 2017 - 6 January 2018

DBG Information Centre

Kerry's love of plants and painting can be traced back to her childhood, her following has gathered momentum since 2002 when, encouraged by friends and family, she was driven to pursue a full-time career in art.

Train Rides

1 November 2017 - 28 April 2018

The CREST Train Rides provide easy access to the Garden especially for those in a wheelchair as the trains are equipped with ramps. Rides set off from outside the café and run from 10.30am to 3.30pm daily depending on the weather and availability of volunteers.

Sunday Sounds - Community Concert

17 December 2017, 1 - 2pm

DBG Bandstand

Pack a picnic, grab a rug and enjoy live music from the Taieri Gospel Band.

Exhibition - Digital Art by Janet Smith

7 January - 31 March 2018

DBG Information Centre

Drawing with a stylus directly on her electronic tablet, Janet has access to multiple pen, pencil and brush tools, and hundreds of instantly available colours.

Exhibition - Garden Diary by Anneloes Douglas

1 April - 16 May 2018

DBG Information Centre

Visual notes from nature, in acrylic and mixed media. Anneloes is a Dunedin painter and art teacher.

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

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