



Friends News

Autumn 2018

A giant attraction

The rare giant, the titan lily or corpse flower – aka *Amorphophallus titanum*, provided the Garden with a spectacular show this summer. The attraction brought in record visitor numbers, estimated to be around 10,000, over the weekend of its long-awaited opening. Congratulations to all the Garden staff involved as planning for this event started in 2016. If you were out of town and missed it or couldn't face the long queues, check out the time lapse film here: <http://www.dunedinbotanicgarden.co.nz/about/corpse-plant>

Special offer for Friends

Have you ever hankered after a plant you've seen in the Garden and been disappointed it wasn't available for sale at a garden shop or the Information Centre? Well, as a member of FotDBG 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. Of course it goes without saying there will be some plants, because of restrictions and agreements, that will not be available and naturally patience is required for them to grow to an appropriate size and, in case you were wondering, *Amorphophallus titanum* is off the list!

Calling for your support

The Dunedin City Council are asking for your feedback regarding their 10 year plan. The FotDBG will be making a submission and we encourage our members to support us. Our concerns are laid out below.

The Friends of the DBG urge the Council to include in the 10 year plan sufficient funding for:

- Educational programmes to be prepared and delivered at the BG for schools (and other community learning groups) similar to the popular and successful model which was in place for several years when government funding was available via the LEOTC scheme.
- Maintenance and renewal of high use built assets such as the Tea Kiosk, Information Centre and Winter Garden.
- Renewal and restoration of heritage and operational assets to optimise their potential for public use and their integrity in the landscape. These include Tannock's House, upper garden staff and workshops building, Aviary and lower garden bandstand.



- Completion of the works at the new propagation facility on Lovelock Avenue which were cut from the original project plan when the budget was eroded over the extended timeline by extra costs for traffic management, telecommunications disputes, materials cost increases and surveying issues for consents. These include key operational structures for plant production and welfare such as shade houses.
- Improvement of the public facilities in the upper garden for parking, toilets and manoeuvring of coaches. The increasing demand for use of the BG by visitors/tourists already means that current facilities are inadequate but this will escalate as tourism in general increases in Dunedin and the BG continues to be a destination.
- Urgent review and 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 bus parking increases with each year.

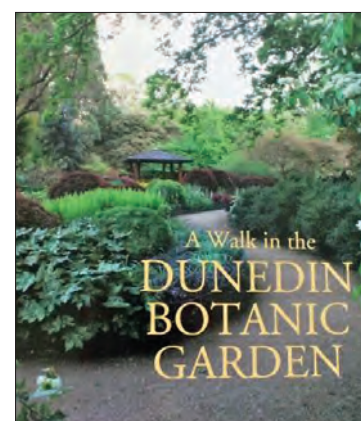
To lodge your support please visit:
<http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/10-year-plan>.

A brief history of Garden funding

Without the backing and financial support of Dunedin City Council the Dunedin Botanic Garden would not exist. Despite the Council's valued support, which sustains the place of the Garden in the hearts and lives of the citizens, there is much happening in the Garden that goes well beyond the financial capacity of our local authority alone.

As the Friends are about to embark on a major fundraising campaign we take a glance back at the Garden projects that the Friends and other external agencies have achieved.

1986	Formation of the Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden.
1987-1995	Monthly volunteer sessions in the Garden.
1991	Lovelock Bush Trail developed by DBG staff and funded by Friends.
1992	Establishment of the Wetland Garden – funded and volunteer help to construct.
1992	Funding for production of Pat Brooke paintings into notelets.
1992	Martinson Print Project (Tui on Kowhai) which raised \$15k for the Parakeet Aviary.
1996	Information Centre constructed from funds raised by the Friends, \$330k.
1996	Establishment of a shop and full time volunteer support at Information Centre. Information Services Officer position was established after Friends petitioned Council.
1996-2000	Full time Information Centre Manager established, subsidised by Task Force Green.
1998-2002	LEOTC contract with Ministry of Education.
1999	Entranceway development – 150th Anniversary of European Settlement in Otago. Friends contribution of \$50k via application to Otago Community Trust.
2000-2008	Shop and volunteers managed by full-time Friends volunteer coordinator.
2001	South African Garden Development, Friend members contributed \$60k to enable and complete the project.
2003	The Story of the Dunedin Botanic Garden: New Zealand's First (approx Friends contribution \$76k).
2009	Funding of full-time Information Centre Officer, \$40k. Funding of a part-time Executive Officer 20 hrs/week for 12 months \$25k.
2007	Great King Street Entranceway project, Members contribution – \$40k.
2010	Mediterranean Garden, Friends contribution \$120k, members contribution \$120k.
2016	Duck Pond Pier Project, celebrating 30 years of the Friends - \$40k.
2016	Garden guide/information book - <i>A Walk in Dunedin Botanic Garden</i> \$30k.
2017	David Tannock Scholarship launched, funded with the proceeds from the annual Rhododendron Day plant sale.



Individuals

Clive Lister \$250K
 Barbara & Dick Calvert – Friends members \$100K
 Olive and Charles Munro – Friends members \$40K
 Nancye Sime – Friends member \$120K
 2009 Wolf Harris Fountain upgrade – \$36,000 from Dunedin Amenities Society and Harris family
 Numerous seats and trees throughout the Garden have been gifted by individuals.

Other contributing community groups

Dunedin Amenities Society
 Dunedin Horticultural Society
 Rose Society
 Herb Society
 Alexander McMillan Trust
 Cedars of Lebanon Club

Donations and Bequests

If you would like to support projects at the Botanic Garden, you may wish to consider leaving a bequest in your will. For more information or to discuss your wishes, please contact Alan Matchett, the manager of Dunedin Botanic Garden at botanic@dcc.govt.nz or 03 477 4000.

A Summer of Challenges and Opportunities

Barbara Wheeler, Collections Supervisor

The summer season was a challenging one, with extreme dry periods punctuated by heavy rainfall events. It was the first time for us that the large mature trees in the lower garden have needed supplementary irrigation, not necessarily from a lack of underground soil moisture (although that was an issue too) but more from the intense air temperature which caused stress on trees which were already working at full capacity to uptake water but losing more rapidly through transpiration than they could take up. Despite the heavy rains we have since had, soil moisture levels are still incredibly low and plantings throughout the Botanic Garden are still needing high levels of irrigation to maintain them. As you will know, soils that are already in deficit means it takes an extraordinary amount of water over a sustained period of time to return them to capacity.

One could be forgiven for thinking the only thing happening at the Botanic Garden over summer was the titan lily flowering! Around the world, wherever a titan lily flowers it receives the exact same response – mayhem and chaos to get in and see it. Being the largest inflorescence, ponging a bit and only flowering for a short time gives this plant the trifecta and my, how people flock to see it. Over 10,000 visited the Winter Garden in five days and their reactions on seeing the plant were ones of sheer joy and amazement. For botanic gardens, this is the pinnacle of what we hope to achieve – a high level of engagement with plants. It is gratifying (and humbling) to know a plant has such a pulling capacity but it is sad that there can be splendour all around us every day in the floral kingdom which can pass unnoticed. One such plant is at the Great King Street entrance, *Luma apiculata*, which has had the most amazing flowerings seen in recent years – I've never seen anything quite so stunning.

Right now, autumn crocus are flowering, trees are starting to colour up with autumnal hues and late season colour abounds. It is not solely flowers to look out for, fruit and berries make spectacular displays at this time of year. Chilean guava *Ugni molinae*, is fruiting now with its intoxicating scent drifting in the air, several species of *Crataegus* are worth checking out in the main Arboretum (just take care as they can have monster spines!) and *Sorbus* are starting to fruit up nicely in the Arboretum between the Opoho Sports field and the Northern Cemetery.

Autumn sees the start of the pest control



Top: Golden ash aglow and fruiting *Sorbus* (left) and *Crataegus* (right) makes for a colourful, autumnal display in the Garden.

BARBARA WHEELER

programme, with night shooting already under way to manage possums and rabbits. Further shoots are planned for April and May and then again in August to November. This keeps pest numbers down and ensures plant displays are not affected by these browsing gluttons.

In December staff had to say a sad goodbye to the NZ lancewood at the south end of the Rock Garden. This tree, like many others in the past and more into the future, had reached the end of its life and needed to be removed before it toppled over. A European beech on the avenue at the Camellia Borders is due for removal within the next two months as it too has gone beyond the point of no return. In a botanic garden reaching 155 years of age in June of this year, tree management and replacement is one of the most critical areas with many of our stately giants reaching convalescent age. Sad to see, but where there is sadness there is also opportunity.

Information Centre & Propagation Group

■ It's hard to believe we are clearly already into Autumn and will soon be losing daylight saving! After a hot and busy summer and the interest and excitement generated by the blooming of the corpse flower we are entering a quieter period.

■ One of the best things about working in the Centre is the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. Our visitors' book is full of lovely comments from all corners of the globe including a couple from Alberta who left a handsome donation for the recently vandalised donation box at the aviary.

■ My grateful thanks to the volunteers, especially those who worked extra shifts over the holiday period.

■ Members of the Propagation Group are now hard at work potting up plants ready for the May Sale to be held in the Propagation Facility on Saturday 12 May from 9am until 12 noon.

■ If you buy plants at the sale or from the centre and don't want to keep the pots we would be very grateful if you could bring them back to us for recycling.

Louise Kilby, Volunteer Coordinator

Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden

MAY PLANT SALE

**Saturday
12 May
9am - 12**

**Propagation Facility
Lovelock Avenue, Dunedin**

An additional 10% discount will be available to members of FotDBG.



What's On

Train Rides

Until 28 April 2018

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 Concerts

Sunday 25 March - Reggae Concert

Sunday 1 April - Dunedin Youth Orchestra
1 - 2pm, DBG Bandstand

Pack a picnic, grab a rug and enjoy the live music.

Exhibition - Digital Art by Janet Smith

Until 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.

HortTalk - Dylan Norfield, collection curator

Friday 6 April, noon, DBG Information Centre
Rare and unusual plants of the Botanic Garden.

Wild & Green

Saturday, 21 April, 10am - 3pm

Check out www.dunedin.govt.nz/wild-dunedin-events for a full programme of free workshops, garden tours and displays in support of the Wild Dunedin Festival of Nature.

May Plant Sale

Saturday 12 May, 9am - 12 noon

Propagation Facility, Lovelock Avenue, Dunedin.

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'.