



Friends News

Summer 2019

Reopening Soon

**Dunedin Mayor, Dave Cull will be opening
the newly refurbished Winter Garden
11am, Friday 15 March, all welcome.**



Reporting back from Tasmania

The David Tannock Scholarship funded with proceeds from the annual Rhododendron Day Plant Sale was launched last year, allowing a deserving member of the Garden staff to meet their professional objectives.

The first recipient of the award was collection curator Dylan Norfield who headed to Tasmania to explore possible seed exchange and other reciprocal opportunities with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

Dylan's personal objectives were to:

- study the native flora to better understand plant communities and climate associations
- nurture personnel relationships to facilitate a seed exchange programme
- investigate the progress of the RTBG community garden
- experience the Subantarctic Island House
- learn processes and procedures regarding control of Myrtle Rust
- establish a relationship to facilitate sharing of specialist knowledge and resources.

“It's been a great experience seeing many of the plants that we already have in our collection but in the wild, in

their natural environment” said Dylan.

With a packed itinerary over nine days, Dylan has managed to achieve his goals and left Tasmania with a further list of places to explore on his next visit as well as laying the ground work for future collaborations with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

We look forward to a HortTalk presentation in the near future.



Telopea hybrid in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

DYLAN NORFIELD

US Fellowship Win

Dunedin Botanic Garden collections supervisor Barbara Wheeler has been selected to take part in the prestigious Longwood Gardens Fellow programme in the United States.

Starting in June, she will join five other garden professionals from around the world for a 13-month residency at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. The aim of the fellowship, which has been running in some form since 1967, is to provide an opportunity for gardening professionals to develop and refine their leadership skills.

During the 13-month, fully funded, cohort-based residency at Longwood, Fellows delve into topical issues relevant to public horticulture today such as leadership, organisational behavior, board relations and governance, communications, and other relevant business-related content. A two-month field placement provides a

deeper understanding of these issues, equipping Fellows to lead organisations into a vibrant and sustainable future.

Barbara, who has worked in her current role at the Dunedin Botanic Garden for 16 years, will travel to the US in June and hopes to return with fresh and creative ideas for the Garden.

The Friends congratulate Barbara and wish her *bon voyage*.



ODT: STEPHEN JAQUIERY

Interested in Volunteering?

"I look forward each week to meeting new people and giving suggestions of what to see today in the gardens" – Ros

"I especially enjoy the look on children's faces when I give them duck food" – Sue

The Garden information centre is staffed daily by volunteers. They are the welcoming face of the Botanic Garden, greeting visitors, answering questions and promoting the garden and its projects.

Would you be interested in joining this group of people? If you enjoy engaging with visitors, tourists and children coming into the centre for duck food you might like to check out what we do.

You will have an informal interview and be required to submit the names of two referees. You need to be confident in assisting with the sale of plants and shop stock, handling cash and EftPos, and

recording sales. A knowledge of plants is helpful but not essential. Full training will be given and initially you will work alongside experienced volunteers.

The centre is open from 10am to 4pm seven days a week, 363 days a year. It is helpful if volunteers work a regular 3-hour shift once a week but this is readily negotiable.

Interested in finding out more?

Phone 471 9275, or email friends@friendsdbg.co.nz, or indicate your interest to one of our friendly volunteers in the Information Centre and someone will contact you for a chat.

SUPERLATIVES

Smelliest, biggest (and quite rare)

Our corpse plant, *Amorphophallus titanum*, which flowered last year was indeed a sight to see, attracting much publicity, and boosting visitor numbers.

Clearly there is much public interest in horticultural superlatives, after all who wouldn't want to see the rarest, smelliest, largest, tallest of anything coming to a botanic garden near you soon. So the intention of this column is to scatter a few more superlatives around and throw the spotlight on a few lesser known gems in these gardens.

Spikiest

Colletia paradoxa (barbed-wire bush)



A vicious little evergreen shrub from Patagonia with delicious almond scented flowers. Several specimens can be found in the South American collection.

Dottiest

Pulmonaria officinalis (lungwort)



A low growing plant with fabulous foliage for shady spots. It has two seasons of interest, providing masses of flowers in spring and fine clumps of fresh foliage in the autumn. Look out for it in the lower garden Camelia Borders near to the car park.

If you would like to challenge the above or have a favourite plant to feature here, email us your suggestion with its superlative, friends@friendsdbg.co.nz.

Gardening gifts and gifts for gardeners

Gifts

Drop by the Information Centre shop and check out our new collection of botanically themed gifts. Selected with our travelling visitors in mind they are mostly flat and compact but that's not to say our local visitors won't appreciate them.

This (pictured right) beautifully packaged range of six boxed soaps are a luxury triple milled handcrafted soap and contain sustainable sodium palmate, enriched with moisturising shea butter, cocoa butter and manuka honey, and scented with frangipani and manuka honey.

The soaps come in recyclable boxes featuring vintage New Zealand flora designs from the 'Old Master' decoupage series by Tanya Wolfkamp of Wolfkamp & Stone. We also stock a range of matching greeting cards. The soap and box are made in New Zealand.



Sprouting Seeds at Home

Eat your way to good health – grow your own sprouts! Enjoy a different flavour every day from your kitchen bench. Sprouting seeds are a simple way to produce delicious, nutritious vegetables all year round. They are fun to grow and with a wide variety now available are popular in households and sandwich shops everywhere.

An Agee jar makes a perfect sprouting container and we stock lids to fit large (92mm) Agee or Mason brand preserving jars.

Alfalfa is one of the most popular sprouts with a delicious nutty flavour, excellent for gourmet salads, omelettes and sandwiches. It's high in fibre, vitamins, minerals and proteins. The sprouts are many times more nutritious if exposed to the sunlight about the fifth day after germination. They can then be harvested.

So, dust off your Agee jars, pick up a sprouting lid and a packet or two from the Kings Seeds range now in stock and you'll have everything you need to get started.

Yates Native Collection

Yates Native Seeds Landscaping Range is a range of iconic kiwi natives including favourites like pōhutukawa, nikau palm and kōwhai. Special varieties such as the elegant tussock grass and the striking blue and white Chatham Island forget-me-not are also featured in the range.

Varieties are grouped so that they can be selected to solve landscaping problems for the everyday gardener. Each packet carries specific suggestions for appropriate garden placement. You can select from varieties that are flowering, accent plants, specimen trees and those that are ideal for mass planting. There are even some varieties can also be planted in containers.



Information Centre & Propagation Group

■ Thank you to all the Centre volunteers, especially those who did extra shifts over the holiday period. A combination of school holidays, cruise ship visits and exceptionally hot weather has made this summer one of our busiest for a while, with still another two months to go. We have noticed an increase in family groups enjoying the Botanic Garden and have met lots of interesting overseas visitors.



■ During the last few weeks of 2018 we were delighted to host Amy Archer as our young Artist in Residence. Amy spent four days a week in the Centre, painting beautiful watercolours of plants and scenes from photos she had taken around the Garden. This created lots of interest, with visitors and volunteers on duty pausing to watch Amy and talk to her about her paintings.

■ If you haven't visited recently, we would love to see you and we are sure you will like the new range of giftware we have in stock.

■ The Propagation Group is back in action after the holiday break. Plants are selling well from our trolley at the Information Centre and we have plenty of work ahead of us preparing for the next sale to be held at the Propagation Facility on Saturday 11 May 2019 from 9am to 12noon. If you have any plant pots you don't need, please drop them off at the Centre so that we can recycle them.

Louise Kilby, Volunteer Coordinator

MAY PLANT SALE

**Saturday 11 May
9am - 12pm**

**Propagation Facility
Lovelock Avenue, Dunedin**

A 10% discount is available to members of FotDBG.

What's On

Exhibition – Of the Rose Garden

Until 31 March 2019, Garden Information Centre

Poetic works contemplate one of this home town artist's favourite places, Dunedin Botanic Garden, in colourful visual form.

Exhibition – Breathtaking

1 April – 30 June 2019, Garden Information Centre

HortTalk – Volco Bush and its botany: a Pakihaukai story

Friday 5 April, noon, Garden Information Centre



Bill Dacker and Hendrick Koch, trustees of the Volco Trust will present an overview of a conservation area near Mount Cargill that has been conserved by private individuals for nearly 50 years.

HortTalk – Wild Cards

Friday 3 May, noon, Garden Information Centre

Readings from winning entries of the Wild Dunedin Festival Wild Card nature writing competition inspired by the beauty and ingenuity of the natural world.

May Plant Sale

Saturday 11 May, 9am – 12noon, Propagation Facility
Browse over an amazing range of plants and pick up bargains galore and expert advice.

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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