



Friends News

Autumn 2019

Long-awaited Management Plan Review

A working party has been established to review the Botanic Garden Management Plan. Lead by the Parks Planning section there are representatives from Parks, industry sectors, the Botanic Garden and Friends. Mick Reece has agreed to represent the Friends over the duration of the review.

The current Botanic Garden Management Plan is now almost 20 years old, 10 years past its review date and is one of three management plans being developed by Parks during the next 12 months, the expected time frame to complete this work.

The purpose of reviewing the Botanic Garden

Management Plan is to update and establish an overarching policy document which outlines Council's role in the current and future planning, development, design, management and maintenance of the Botanic Garden. Up-dating the management plan gives Council an opportunity to introduce best practice models, trends and public opinion that have evolved since the last management plan was written 20 years ago.

The scope of the review will consider such things as historical context the botanical, physical and natural aspect the plant collections and Aviary and will include topical items relating to the day to day management of the Garden.

Staff changes at the Garden

Barbara Wheeler has now started her sabbatical study period at Longwood Gardens in the US. Barbara is away until July 2020 and we wish her well and every success in her studies. Barbara has previously trained at Longwood Gardens so it won't take her long to reacquaint herself with the environment there.

Dylan Norfield has accepted the challenge of taking on the role of Collections Supervisor learning the ropes with Barbara during a short hand-over period. However, with Dylan moving into this position this leaves a gap in his previous role as Collection Curator. We are currently recruiting for this position but will not know the outcome for a week or two.

Recruitment for new apprentices has taken place and while we were not able to fill the three positions that were available we would however like to welcome Ben Xie and Gene Turner who will join us on 1 July and we look forward to being involved in their training over the next three years.

Applications from overseas student interns are high and at the moment we have Tom Verhoeven from the Netherlands and Beccy Cross from the UK working with us in the Garden.

Work has also started on the construction of the long-awaited shade house at the propagation facility. This was part of the original design of the new facility when work

started back in 2013 but needed to be put on hold until additional funding was made available. Despite the four year wait this is now fast becoming a reality.

A new record reached

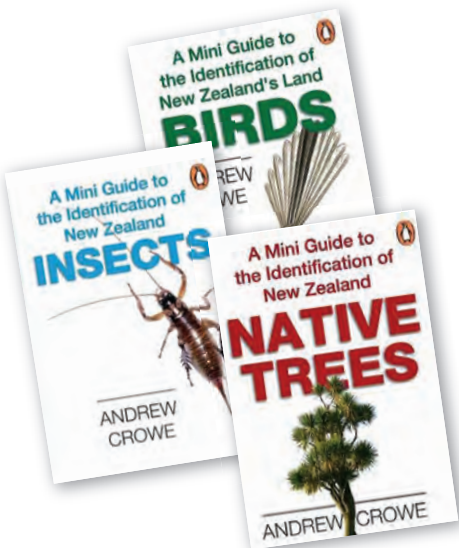
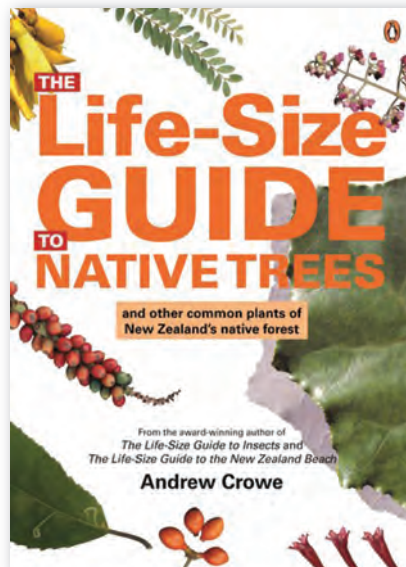
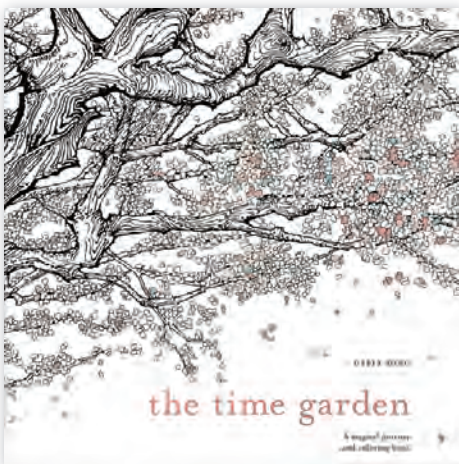
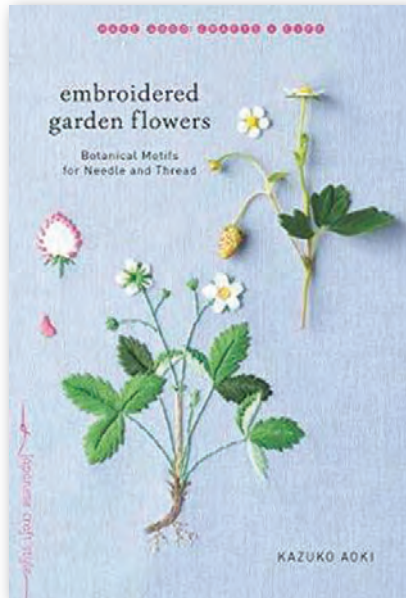
On 11 May, the Friends held their annual May plant sale – great timing for Mother's Day the next day.

We had a fantastic turnout, the Propagation Centre was full to bursting with bargain hunters shortly after the doors opened at 9am. As a result, we were able to reach a new record in takings (for the second year in a row) with \$7,400 raised. All proceeds from the sale go towards supporting projects in the Garden.

We would like to acknowledge the support of local garden centres – Blue Mountain Nurseries, Blueskin Nurseries, Ribbonwood Nurseries, Otago Polytechnic, Mitre 10 Mega, YouthGrow Garden Centre and Bluestone Nurseries who so generously donated plants for sale, as well as the Propagation Group who cultivate plants over the course of the year. As always, Alice and her wonderful team at the Propagation Centre did a fantastic job setting up, packing away and supporting us on the day, for which we are so grateful.

Gardening gifts and gifts for gardeners

Drop by the Information Centre and check out our new selection of Penguin Random House books – something for everyone from the amateur ornithologist to the budding artist in your family. The proceeds from sales go towards the Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden projects.



SUPERLATIVES

Throwing the spotlight on a few lesser known gems in the Garden.

Spikiest

Trichocereus atacamensis subsp. *pasacana* (Pasacana tree cactus)



With the reopening of the Winter Garden there are any number of contenders for this title. The spines of this cactus are usually 10cm long but can be up to 30cm.

Creepiest

Pachysandra terminalis (Japanese spurge)



A creeping, semi-woody evergreen of the boxwood family, its leathery leaves are arranged in a whorl at the ends of the erect stems. It thrives in shady spots under trees and shrubs, spreading horizontally by means of shallow white rhizomes. The flowers are white, coarsely bottlebrush-shaped about 5cm long, produced from buds near the ends of branches in mid-spring. The species are native to eastern Asia and southeast North America.

Look out for it at the entrance to the lower garden, edging the car park and in the Japanese Garden.

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

Walks in the Garden

The first in a new series of self-guided walks through the Garden

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A stroll in the lower garden...

Start at the car park and walk through the main path and take a sharp left onto the grass, walk beneath the canopy of trees, on the left a stand of lemonwoods (*tarata*) look magnificent with their bright green leaves and on the right the very old horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) which needs some artificial assistance to keep standing. Walk towards the *Sequoias* (coastal redwood) and on the right the amazing bark on the *Arbutus* (strawberry tree) is bound to catch your eye. As you keep to the outside of the lawn you will come across the wonderful topiaries, a mixture of natives and exotics in various shapings. Wonder at the amount of work to keep them looking so good.

Cross the pathway and keep following the borders on your left and your senses, both sight and smell, will be delighted by the fragrant border first and then on to the textural borders. Such an amazing array of

foliage and form. Wind your way round to the main entrance to the garden and pass under the imposing metal archways and take the last pathway on the right to stroll up beside the magnificent herbaceous borders which in spring, summer and autumn will be a riot of colour. Also admire on your left, near the top of the pathway, the beautiful symmetry of the knot gardens, wander over to the left margins and admire the shade loving plants nestled in under the many and varied trees.

Continue along the pathway to the right, admire the stately bandstand on your right and approach the duck pond which will probably be surrounded by children and adults, armed with their bags of duck feed. Keep following the pathway, past the alpine house sheltered underneath the unusual shaped cafe building, stop for refreshments or 'relief' if needed otherwise continue along past the camellia border on your right and approach the lily ponds in front of

you. Veer right continue on with the herb garden on your right and arrive back at your starting point.

If time and fitness allows you can now do another loop but this time take the middle path, hellebores, cyclamens and camellias then lead to the Rose Garden which can be meandered around, stopping to read names and to sniff for fragrance. Detour off into the newly refurbished Winter Garden and wonder at the exotic delights within. Detour into the Lister Garden and be amazed at the wonder within – a personal favourite with all its different colours, textures and forms. Circumnavigate round the pond and take in the Japanese influenced plants. Sit awhile and watch children playing on the play equipment. Look out for hidden pathways and marvel at the amazing large trees dotted all around the grass areas, but be aware this is but a small part of these amazing gardens – there is so much more to explore across the bridges and up the hill.

Tannock Scholarship

Blake Kuiper, a third year apprentice at the Botanic Garden was successful in a bursary application to join the International Dendrology Society tour of Hungary in September of this year.

Originally from the central coast in NSW Australia, Blake has a background in environmental science and management and to complement this he applied for the three-year apprenticeship training programme at Dunedin Botanic Garden where he is also studying for a Level Four (Advanced) Certificate in Horticulture.

Blake will be joining 32 members of the IDS over the six-day tour of gardens, arboreta and a highly regarded nursery in Hungary between 8-14 September 2019.

Following the tour Blake will travel on to the UK to visit a number of other gardens before returning home to Dunedin. Blake has applied to the David Tannock Scholarship Fund to assist with these additional costs.

Blake intends to share his experiences on his return, complete the final year of his apprenticeship and continue to look at opportunities to advance himself towards becoming a curator of an arboretum collection or similar botanic garden collection.



Information Centre & Propagation Group

Louise Kilby, Volunteer Coordinator

■ If you haven't visited the Botanic Garden for a while, do come along, introduce yourself to the volunteers on duty and browse through our new selection of attractive gifts and souvenirs. Even though the cruise ship season has finished we are still welcoming plenty of visitors who are full of praise for our beautiful Garden. The newly renovated Winter Garden is attracting lots of attention and look amazing.

■ We welcome new volunteers, Chris, Elaine, Gill, Lynette and Debbie and hope they are enjoying being part of our enthusiastic and dedicated team. We also welcome new volunteers Jenni, Jo, Louise and Gwen to our propagation group.

■ The recent May Plant Sale was a great success thanks to all members of staff, apprentices, committee members and volunteers for their hours of hard work. A big thank you also to the nurseries for their generous donation of plants.

■ Though the propagation group is taking a short break while contractors construct the long-awaited shade house we are still providing a good selection of plants for the Information Centre and always appreciate donations of used plant pots for recycling.

What's On



CAROLYN EDMONDS

Exhibition – Breathtaking

Until 30 June 2019, Garden Information Centre

Carolyn Edmonds works by blowing ink on paper, pressing ink, spray paint and collage. This exhibition celebrates the joy of being with nature, inspired by walks through Dunedin Botanic Garden.

HortTalk – New Zealand to Ireland by land and sea

Friday 5 July, noon, Garden Information Centre

Maureen Howard shares her story of travelling to Ireland the low-carbon way – by bus, hitch-hiking and freight ships. Come and hear her low-carbon tales and see her amazing bird photos taken en route.

HortTalk – Whenua Hou - A New Land: the flora of Codfish Island

Friday 2 August, noon, Garden Information Centre

Neville Peat presents a fascinating look at Codfish Island.

Friends AGM

Sunday 8 September, 3pm, Garden Information Centre

Refreshments and guest speaker – Dylan Norfield, all welcome.

Contact Details

Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden
PO Box 8097, Gardens, Dunedin 9041

Phone: 03 471 9275

friends@friendsdbg.co.nz

facebook.com/FriendsDBG

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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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