



# Friends News

Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden

Summer 2020

## Message From The President

Dear Friends

I was elected President of the Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden Committee at the AGM in September and it has been a busy time and steep learning curve for me after having served only one year as a committee member.

I have been a volunteer in the Information Centre for at least 10 years although I have no accurate record of when I started. I expressed an interest in helping when I was retiring from my role as Executive Sales Secretary at Orbit Corporate Travel/House of Travel Dunedin and I have enjoyed the interaction with visitors, children coming in for duck food, and the other volunteers.

I would like to take this opportunity through the newsletter to sincerely thank all the volunteers for their time and dedication, and I am particularly grateful to those who have been able to take on extra shifts.

Please do identify yourself as a 'Friend' when you come into the Centre – we would love to know who you are!

*Sue Lambie*

*President, Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden*

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## INFORMATION CENTRE NEWS



A SELECTION OF PRODUCTS FROM THE MAIN DISPLAY

This is a very busy time of year for the Information Centre. Not only do we have many visitors over the summer months but we also have the influx of overseas visitors from the cruise ships. To this end we have been busy stocking the shop with all sorts of wonderful products including placemats, coasters, lens cloths, notebooks, books, bags, cards, seeds plus many others, most of which have a botanical theme. We also still have an amazing selection of indoor and outdoor plants provided by the Propagation facility. Our sales have been great and we are very grateful to all our volunteers for all their time and hard work in keeping the information centre open.

## KEEN TO BE A VOLUNTEER? WE NEED YOU!

We have known for some time that we need more volunteers for the Information Centre and over the summer season, especially December and January, it has been a challenge some days to have people available to staff the Centre. We have been especially busy on cruise ship days and ideally we need two people per 3 hour shift. It is not just volunteers taking holidays that affects our numbers but also school holidays bring child-minding commitments for many, which reduces their time availability.

We plan to have a gathering some time in February to let potential volunteers know what our role is in the Information Centre and explain some of the tasks we carry out. The opening hours are from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and we divide this into two 3-hour shifts – 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Being able to work one shift a week is great but some of our volunteers only work every second week and some once a month so we are grateful for whatever commitment people are able to give.

If you are interested in attending this session, or finding out more about the role, please contact email ([friends@friendsdbg.co.nz](mailto:friends@friendsdbg.co.nz)) or leave a message with the people on duty at the Information Centre, or contact me direct on 0210449253.

It is because of the sale of plants and other retail goods through our shop in the Information Centre that we accumulate funds and are able to assist with projects in our beautiful Botanic Garden. We are so lucky to have this amenity in our city and visitors often come into the Information Centre specifically to express their joy and admiration for the garden. It is certainly a wonderful 'work' place, no matter the season or the weather.

**Sue Lambie, President**

## Snippets From the Visitors Book

Interesting to read that most of our visitors think the gardens are as wonderful and special as we all do!!!!!!

Date	Name and Address	Comments
1/2020	Ron & Gary BARADA Calgary, Alberta Canada.	Beautiful!
2020	Phyllis + Dee - USA - Minnesota	Gorgeous!
	Tom + Carol - Sydney	Beautiful Garden!
1/20	Heath Lee Ginn + Angela Australia	Perfection!
1/20	Alex - Seattle, USA	wonderful
1/20	Irene - Alexander Rd. Truro, UK.	Very beautiful,
020	Wil Griesbers - Burg. Buskammh. 49 5401 ED - Tilden - Nederlanden (N.R.)	Wonderful - Mooi Schön
-20	<del>XXXXXX</del> Rhiana + Annabelle + Lou	Awe some SO LOVELY & PERFECT WELL DONE TOTALLY LOVELY IN EVERY WAY. The joy of nature!
20	Jan + Mike MALONEY - LONDON UK	
20	Joy Evans Victoria B.C. CANADA	

**Louise Kilby**



Long time member of the Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Gardens Louise Kilby has decided to retire from her voluntary work in the information centre. Louise has been a member of the Friends group since its inception in 1986 and an Information Centre volunteer since November 2006. At that time there was a co-ordinator employed who organised the rosters, managed the Centre and generally kept it operating. When funding ceased for that role in 2011 Louise volunteered to recruit, train and mentor volunteers and ensure the Centre was staffed on a daily basis. She has done such a lot more than that though and it will take us all some time to adjust to her retirement.

Louise was a Girl Guide leader for 25 years and has been a St John's volunteer for 35 years. During this time she taught First Aid courses for 12 years, was on rugby match duty from time to time, and now is a St John's host in the Dunedin Public hospital foyer.

Louise intends continuing her voluntary work at the Botanic Garden Propagation facility so we will see her around from time to time. We will miss you Louise and thank you so much for all the hours you have put in.

## PART TIME RANGERS

The Botanic Gardens now has two part-time rangers during the hours 9am to 5.30pm.

Aileen Ramsay -Friday and Saturday

Eric Odell -Sunday and Monday

The duties of these rangers are:

- To enforce garden by-laws
- Be a deterrent for disorderly behaviour
- Assist visitors with queries

Both rangers are first aid trained so are the first port of call for any medical emergencies. The Rangers are the only Botanic garden staff on site at the weekends and public holidays apart from the Duty person, therefore are responsible for any issues or emergencies. They will also unlock and close the information centre, and help out in the centre during busy periods.

## Important Notices

1. Antidote Chemists at the Gardens have donated a large bottle of Sunscreen for us to share with our visitors when needed. We have also got hand sanitiser available as well.

2. The Friends of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh are hosting a conference for Friends and volunteers in June as part of their 350th anniversary celebrations, There are several events in June, so if you are travelling to the UK at that time and are keen to register please contact us for further information by sending us an email:  
[friends@friendsdbg.co.nz](mailto:friends@friendsdbg.co.nz)

3. Our May Plant Sale will be on the 9th of May this year in the Propagation Centre. If you are after a bargain keep this day free and if you are able to help at the sale please let us know.

**Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden**

**Support us • Join Us**

Our mission is to foster interest in and promote the development of the Garden. Many new, exciting projects await our support. We need your help to bring these projects to fruition. Support Us, Join Us. The Friends Committee values the support of members and looks for ways to show its appreciation. For example, as a member of the Friends of the Dunedin Botanic Garden 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.

Members also receive: a quarterly newsletter keeping you up-to-date with projects and events

- 10% discount at the annual May Plant Sale
- 10% discount in the Information Centre shop (except cards and plants).

Consider joining today. Pick up a membership form at the information centre or visit [www.friendsdbg.co.nz](http://www.friendsdbg.co.nz), return the membership form to:

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

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## What's On

### Exhibition - Laura Gregory

From 1st February for 3 months.

Laura is an artist based in Waikouaiti. She works in black ink and coloured pencil on card. Being a keen gardener her subjects are plants, usually from her own garden. She is specifically interested in the construction of plants. We also have a range of Laura Gregory gift cards for sale in the centre.

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### HortTalk - Volco Bush and its Botany: a Pakihaukai Story

Friday 3rd April 12 noon -Information Centre- Free Admission

Bill Dacker and Hendrick Koch, Trustees, Volco Trust

Bill and Hendrick present an overview of a conservation area near Mount Cargill that has been conserved by private individuals for nearly 50 years. The area even includes a rimu tree that may be 2000 years old.

### Contact Details

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