

# DUNEDIN RHODODENDRON GROUP Inc.

## August 2014 Newsletter



**WEDNESDAY 10 September, AGM 7.30pm**  
**'Landscape and Gardens of South America'**  
**Presented by Margaret Barker of Larnach Castle**  
**Bring & Buy Plant Sale and Supper to follow**  
**Sargood Centre, Logan Park Drive, Dunedin**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting notice and Agenda are included with this mail-out, along with the President's Report and the Annual Financial Statements.

We need some new people on the committee, and in particular we need a new President. A change of personnel brings in fresh ideas to keep our programme varied and interesting. The Group cannot operate without a President, so do consider making yourself available to fill that role. There are many members who help by contributing to various aspects of our programme.

*John Henderson* ph 467 9665

### Garden Visits

Our first Spring visits will be on **Sunday 7 September**; 1.30pm, **Bron and Tony Fitchett, 14 Forrester Ave** (2nd street on right, after the school on Pine Hill Rd—please park on the street). The large rambling garden has a lot of early large leafed rhododendrons with beautiful flowers. Remember it is steep in places.

Next is another steepish garden, **Val and Jim Thomson's, 13 Hillary St** (2nd on the right coming down Pine Hill Rd from Forrester Ave). Their garden, sloping down to a little creek, has a huge variety of plants and spring bulbs.

At 3.30pm we shall see **Tannock Glen** at it's early spring best, with magnolias and rhododendrons blooming magnificently.

**Sunday 5 October** 1.30, we visit gardens at west Taieri. **Murray Tilyard, 362 Riccarton Rd**, Wyllies Crossing.

2.30pm, **Sally Throp, 152 Tirohanga Rd**, is a real plants-woman, with a beautiful country garden.

3.30pm, **Margaret and Graham Hunt, 92 Tirohanga Rd** have acres of outstanding rhododendrons in a nicely landscaped property. It takes some time to see it all, and then there is the opportunity to purchase rhododendrons for \$12 each! Don't expect to get home early!

Our last garden visits are on **Sunday 16 November**. Mark Joel, Ann and John Barsby, and Jo Dodd are our hosts. Details later. *Noelene Ombler* ph 471 0377



Our April visit to the properties of Philippa and Charles Reid, and Anne and Peter Shepherd were well worth while for those who attended in spite of awful weather.

The warmth of our hosts that day made up for the freezing weather. Lovely autumn gardens and what an afternoon tea! A great atmosphere!

**Phillipa Reid's garden, Little Traquair**

Photos taken by Yvonne Joel



## Tannock Glen

The plantings in the garden were further enhanced by the purchase this year of six rhododendron species; *R. adenopodum*, *R. argyrophyllum*, *R. ferruginianum* (double form), *R. malotum* and *R. pseudochrysanthum* "Komo Kulsban". They all have permanent name plates as have most of the existing plants, as the older more brittle signs are transferred to sturdy wooden bases.

The area of the garden known as the Oak Border has been enhanced by the removal of a conifer and the construction of a platform and bench seat. This gives a seat in a sunny part of the garden with a view back across the lawn towards the area with the selection of azaleas bred by Denis Hughes. The platform for the seat was made by recycling the former foot-bridge from the path, and construction was done by Colin Clarke, Treasurer of the Group. The total result is so successful that we have already had a booking for a wedding to be held there. The removal of the conifer that was by the path there, has allowed a number of self-seeded lancewoods to feature, and two of the new rhododendrons mentioned above have been planted in that area. A new drain through part of Bed # 4 and the adjacent lawn has made that area much better for plant growth and survival.

Members are always welcome to come and share some congenial gardening at Tannock Glen on the regular work-bees, the morning of the second Monday of each month.



### Tannock Glen Working Bees

- **9am-noon Saturday 30 August, or Sunday if weather is too wintry**
- **9am-noon Saturday 11 October, preparing for the NZRA visit, or Sunday if weather is too wintry**

**Morning tea is at 10.30am!**

## Anne and Beau Fitzgerald

We are very sorry to have lost two of our members, this year. Anne and Beau joined the DRG over 40 years ago. We hope they enjoyed our Bulletin in recent years. Anne, particularly, was a regular visitor to our evening meetings and garden visits, and was always a pleasant person to have around. We remember visiting their garden in Claremont St, with the Group, in 1982. It was a delight, full of all the plants we rhodo people like to see, rhododendrons and associated plants, artistically landscaped. Their house at Doctors Point, also had an excellent garden and is still in the family. There are many who will have fond memories of the Fitzgeralds. *Noelene*

### New Zealand International Rhododendron Conference 20–24 October 2014

Registration have been steadily coming in for the conference. Closing date for "Early Bird" registrations is 1 September, so you will need to be in quickly, otherwise the late fee of an extra \$100 applies. Registration forms are available from the NZRA website or from the Registrar, Tony Fitchett. It is not necessary to be a member of the NZ Association for you to attend the conference.

Principal speakers at the conference include:

- **Hartwig Schepker**—Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden in Bremen, Germany
- **Steve Hootman**—Executive Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Washington, USA
- **Lynn Bublitz**—a former chairman of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust garden in New Plymouth
- **Denis Hughes** of Blue Mountain Nursery, Tapanui—a hybridiser of rhododendrons and azaleas for many years

Local members may enrol just to hear the speakers only, if you wish. There are two lectures on the Tuesday morning and a further two on the Wednesday morning. Registration is \$60 to attend all four lectures. These are all great speakers, each with profound depth of knowledge on rhododendrons, so it is a wonderful opportunity to hear them.

The Conference Committee is particularly pleased with the number of registrants who are coming to the conference from overseas. Countries such as Australia, USA, Canada, Japan, UK and Germany are represented. Both the pre-conference tour and the post conference tour are filled, mainly with overseas registrants.

## Plant List

The **2014 Plant List** was the most successful in recent years with more members ordering more plants. It was widely supported, with orders from 40 members, 10 of whom are gardening beyond Dunedin, as cartons of plants were couriered to various parts of the South Island and even Wellington and Palmerston North. The numbers of plants ordered were 186 rhododendrons and 232 other associated plants from the six participating nurseries. The total value of sales was over \$7,000. This is the final year that plants were available from Wanaka Garden Nursery. Thank you to those most directly involved in the selection and circulation of the plants and the list, namely Yvonne Joel and Karen Cousins.

### DUNEDIN RHODODENDRON GROUP Inc

PO Box 5052, Dunedin

Email: [rhodogroupdn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rhodogroupdn@xtra.co.nz)

Website:

[www.rhodogroupdunedin.org.nz](http://www.rhodogroupdunedin.org.nz)

*A membership form for any potential new members can be downloaded from the website.*