

# DUNEDIN RHODODENDRON GROUP Inc.

## March 2014 Newsletter



WEDNESDAY 9 April 7.30pm

2014 Plant List Illustrated

Bring & Buy Plant Sale and Supper to follow

Sargood Centre, Logan Park Drive, Dunedin

Our programme for the 2014 year is all set to go. We have the **Plant List** for you to browse and consider, the first evening meeting on Wednesday April 9th, and the first of our garden visits on Sunday April 13th.

We are grateful to Yvonne Joel who has taken on the role of organising our Plant List, a valuable aspect of our club activities. The list offers the chance to purchase special plants from the growers. Some of these are in limited supply and may not be available on a regular basis, so it is a case of first orders in will be filled first.

Our first evening meeting is on April 9th (held second Wednesday of the month). As usual we will have illustrations and discussion of the plants which are on offer from the list. Please bring along any of your special plants for our Bring & Buy table.

Note we have a new venue. All our meetings this year will be held at the Sargood Centre, Logan Park Drive. This building was the old art gallery. Access is by the one-way Logan Park Drive which runs off Anzac avenue. Entry is at the green door to the right of the building. Plenty of free parking and easy access at street level. This a centrally heated spacious complex, newly renovated and with the latest in audio visual technology. Usual starting time is 7.30 sharp. *John Henderson* ph 467 9665

### Tannock Glen Working Bee - Saturday April 5th

We come out of summer recess and start with our Autumn Working Bee on Saturday, April 5th at 9am, or later if that's too early for you. You can leave earlier than noon, too, but do come if you can. It's fun pottering in the garden with other members. The garden is in good shape these days. Morning tea is at 10.30am. Bring a cup, gloves and your favourite tools. *Noelene Ombler* ph 471 0377

### Autumn Garden Visits

Our Inland Autumn Garden visits are on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, leaving Dunedin at about 11am for 11.45am at **Philippa and Charles Reids' at Little Traquair, on SH87, Rpd 2000**. It is 10.5 km from Outram, and Philippa will put balloons at the turn off on the RHS of the highway. They built their house 22 years ago. Philippa was a landscape advisor then, so the garden was well planned and will be a treat for us to see now. **Bring your thermos, cups and picnic lunches here.**

At 1.30pm, leave for Shepherds' taking care to take the right turnings to get to Mahinerangi. **Please take a current AA map. The "Queenstown Dunedin Invercargill" touring map is best.** Drive on from Reids', several km, and take the **Lee Flat Rd** on the left. (Mahinerangi Road, though sealed, is unpleasantly corrugated) Turn Lt at Lee Flat and continue on Lee Flat Rd until you come on to Mahinerangi Rd. Turn Rt and then keeping Lt, drive down past the fishing huts and across the Edgar Stark bridge over the lake. 1 km up the hill is a T junction - turn Rt into Waipori Rd and continue for another km. Turn Lt at the crossroads into **Mitchells Flat Rd**.

**Anne and Peter Shepherds' is the 2<sup>nd</sup> house on the RHS, about 6km along, Rpd 1087, with a stone gateway and trees.** Drive up to the house. Apart from their home garden, they have planted a lot of trees, native and exotic, in areas all around their farm. You will be able to drive around it following Peter, with stops along the way. Anne has generously offered to give us afternoon tea, so bring your cups and we shall enjoy a break before returning home via Waitahuna. *Noelene*

## Glorious Gardens in North Otago in November

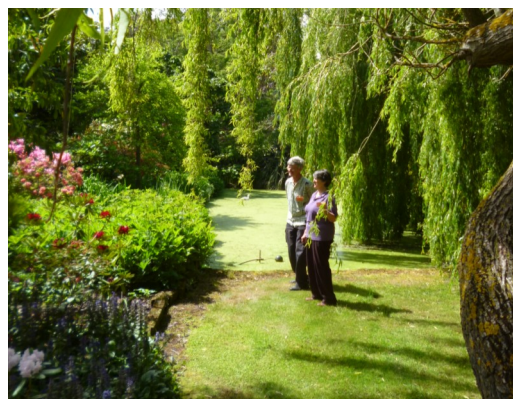
A cool morning was redeemed by warm indoor hospitality from Anne and John Mackay for our picnic lunches, after visiting exciting hillside gardens there and at Graham Chesney's in Waianakaru. Another beautiful one thrilled us at Herbert; Albert Stringer's was delightful. A walk around Oamaru Gardens was also enjoyable. Flamboyant peonies stole the limelight. The indoor garden courtyard of the Last Post Restaurant was an appropriate setting for our delicious evening dinner.

Next morning, on a beautiful day, the unique vegetable gardens of Riverstone were introduced to us by the inimitable, highly entertaining Dot Smith, who later allowed us to see her own colourful garden. Next was Willowbank Park, home of Gloria and Ian Hurst, a large and glorious place. Robyn and Ian's hillside garden at Peebles, though smaller, was alive with colour and variety, and lots of rhododendrons. Linda Wilson, at Weston, provided lunch in her beautifully landscaped and inspiring Parkside Gardens.

Val and Michael Clarkes' garden, not only attractively displayed hundreds of roses but also a wide variety of trees and plants. Bron and Mart McClones' garden, Glenfalloch, beyond Ngapara, was of special interest for the alpine plant enthusiasts but rhododendrons filled the lower damper areas. This was the last of the superb gardens we visited - all different and every one exceptional. We are grateful for the friendly hospitality shown to us by their owners. *Noelene*



Billie on Hurst's floating bridge, Willowbank



Gillian and Chris enjoying Kirks' garden

### New Zealand International Rhododendron Conference 2014

The conference programme has been finalised. Details and registration forms are available from the NZRA website [www.rhododendron.org.nz](http://www.rhododendron.org.nz) or from the Conference Registrar, Tony Fitchett.

Local members do not need to join the NZRA in order to attend. It is a 5 day programme including speakers (local and international), bus tours to garden visits, dinners and a banquet. Early registration is available at \$455. As an alternative it is possible to register for just the lectures; there being two on the Tuesday morning and two on the Wednesday morning. The \$60 fee covers all four lectures and morning tea on both days. At the banquet on the Thursday night there will be an auction of special plants, and the proceeds from the auction are to go to Tannock Glen.

The conference committee is grateful for the sponsorship which has been received from the Otago Community Trust, Bendigo Valley Foundation and the Bank of New Zealand.

### Committee changes

At the AGM in September there were two new members elected to the committee namely Leonie Day and Yvonne Joel. Unfortunately we were unable to find anyone to fill the role of Treasurer. Colin Clarke has done the job admirably for nine years, for which we are most grateful. He continues as Acting Treasurer in the meantime. Judy Fisher was re-elected as Secretary at the AGM but we have recently received her resignation from that position as she has sold her property and moved away from Dunedin. We thank her for her enthusiasm for the group and are pleased that she wishes to remain a member, even though she will be living at Motueka. Elizabeth Stuart has agreed to be the new Secretary. *John*

### Tannock Glen

Our regular group gardening sessions, held on the second Monday of each month, are enjoyable and productive occasions. Please join us if you would like to help. The committee has recently approved the employment of a person to spray the weeds, so that is helping with the maintenance. We are very grateful to Elizabeth Stuart who donated and delivered many bales of pea straw to Tannock Glen. *John*

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