

# HortTalk at the Botanic Garden

4 March

**Health and safety in the garden is everybody's business**

*Andy Westgate, Health and Safety Manager, Otago Polytechnic*

The new and improved Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 will be guiding our workforce from 4 April 2016. Andy will cover key changes and what the new legislation means for people working in the horticulture industry.

8 April

**Weeds that heal: timeless remedies for a modern world**

*Janet Melbourne, BHS(CompMed) ND MedHerb MNZAMH, Natural Medicine Practitioner*

People have used plants as medicine throughout human history but in modern times much of that knowledge is no longer commonly held. Learn about the healing properties of the plants we normally ignore.

6 May

**Health, well-being and happiness in Dunedin**

*Sophie Carty, Health Promotion and Projects Coordinator, WellSouth Primary Health Network*

Sophie will inspire thought and options as she shares information about community programmes to help improve well-being which includes a wonderful new project – The Dunedin Low Cost Food and Transport Map.

3 June

**Life-saving frogs: you'll miss them when they're gone**

*Professor Phil Bishop, Director of the Ecology Degree Programme, University of Otago*

Frogs play an integral role in the ecosystem and are sensitive indicators of the health of the environment. While biodiversity in general is in decline, frogs are the most threatened group of vertebrates and the loss of these species will have a severe impact on human welfare.

1 July

**Minding our bees 'n wax**

*Murray and Heidi Rixon, Apiarists, Rentahive Dunedin*

Rentahive specialises in the annual rental of fully managed hives to clients with domestic gardens as well as lifestyle blocks and rural land. Be prepared to learn more about this hands-on teaching opportunity and all things bees.

5 August

**From pruning to harvest: a year in the life of a vineyard**

*Louise Nisbett, Staff Supervisor, Mudhouse Wines, Bendigo*

Mudhouse Wines is the southernmost vineyard of the Accolade Group. Hardworking staff must manage whatever extremes Central Otago weather offers.

2 September

**Flora of Israel: fascinating flora from desert to forest**

*Barbara Wheeler, Collections Supervisor, Dunedin Botanic Garden*

During a two-week study scholarship in 2000 Barbara visited a wide range of natural habitats and cultivated gardens. Her photos take us on a tour of an exotic and beautiful part of the world.

7 October

**Digging the dirt on soil**

*Lisa Short, Horticulture Lecturer, Otago Polytechnic*

"It takes half a millennium to build two centimetres of living soil and only seconds to destroy it." Lisa introduces soil basics to help you get the most out of your garden.

4 November

**State of our nation's soil health and biochar**

*Dennis Enright and Annie Broadfoot*

A tag team talk that looks at the new direction of Soil and Health and its strengthening partnership with Biogro plus the many uses of Biochar!

Biochar is one tool for mitigating the impact of global warming and an important ingredient in seed raising mixes being put to the test by farmers in Thailand.

2016

12 noon · free admission  
Information Centre  
– near Duck Pond

