



Friends of the Garden – Newsletter November 2011– No 7

From the Chairman's Desk

The recent visit in October last from Zang Ling (Director of the Yu Garden) and his delegation was a resounding success. The most moving comment was when Zang Ling stated that the Yu Garden has many relationships with other gardens but has only one sister garden and that was Lan Yuan. This certainly made us feel very special.

Progress is being made on the book "Art and Poetry in Lan Yuan" which is to be printed by Allied Press. Our author Dr. James Beattie and his wife Ondine have just become proud parents to Eloise. Our congratulations to them both.

Mark Orton our DVD producer is now back in Dunedin and has recommenced work on the DVD. Both of these should be due out in the coming year.

From the Trust we wish to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe holidays.

Chinese New Year is on 23rd January and will herald in the Year of the Dragon.

Sheng Dan Kuai Le! (Merry Christmas)

Friends Forum

Next meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday 30 November at 7pm in the Garden. The subject for the meeting is Mah Jong with instruction by Pearl Harrington. Please let us know if you will be attending for catering. Thanks. Ph. 467 9629, e mail mandb@es.co.nz

Future Plans

The first meeting in 2012 will be towards the end of March and we will discuss the programme for 2012 at the November meeting. Suggested subjects could include:-

Qing Gong (originally planned for November)
Confucius
Tea Ceremony
Penjing

The last meeting on calligraphy was enjoyed by everyone present and thanks to Alice Chuang for a very entertaining evening.

People

Profile - Peter Tipa

Peter is a born and bred Dunedin man. He went to Kensington School (for those old enough to remember it) and Otago Boys High.

Peter has worked in the Tourism industry for a few years now having owned and operated his own bed & breakfast (Avondale B&B) in Middlemarch for 5 years catering to Rail Trail clients; He also worked a season as a driver guide on the Otago Central Rail Trail. Then he went to Newtons for a year doing sight-seeing work, Cruise Ship tour work and did a few South Island Bus Tours. Previous to this he had his own retail shops, first a Sewing Machine Shop (Dunedin Sewing Machine Repairs) and then a Hi Fi Shop. (Good Hi Fi)

Peter applied for the position at the garden because he enjoys working with the public and tourists and has always been a supporter

of the Garden and other tourist related ventures in the city.

His other interests include Motor Cycling, Cooking, Golf (when he gets the chance), Music and supporting his son in his interests.



Garden Gossip

Tea House

Currently staff are working on obtaining souvenirs for next year – the Year of the Dragon.

Growing interest

Ian has been shaping pines and has started to layer maples to provide a more aesthetic appearance for some of the trees. Christopher Trotter has provided some penjing in the main courtyard. A lotus is to be grown in a large pot with a base of warm water to provide a more hospitable environment than is usual in Dunedin. The special pot was donated through the Trust to the Garden from a credit balance given by Mitre 10 Mega.



Shaping a tree



Penjing display

Happenings

Mr Ling Zang, the Director of the Yu Garden in Shanghai visited Dunedin in October. He was impressed with the Garden as it was more authentic than he had imagined. He was able to provide some useful advice and it was an opportunity to further develop the relationship between Dunedin and Shanghai. He presented the Garden with a magnificent vase.

As reported in in the ODT the Pai Lou has suffered damage from the weather and is undergoing repairs and repainting. This will take 6 to 8 weeks but will future proof the structure.

Two substantial donations were given through the Trust by NZ Moray Property Ltd and Alex Stier, a director of NZ Moray Property Ltd as well as from the Trust itself to help fund the work. Further funding is also likely from the Chinese Community.



The number of activities held in the Garden is increasing with Tai Chi on Wednesday evening and a Confucius discussion group which has changed from Tuesday to Sunday 3-4pm

Upcoming events

The Chinese New Year in 2012 will be on the 23rd January. There will be a 4 day programme of events with the main activities on the 22nd which is a Sunday. The firework display will be at midnight on New Year's Eve, which may be a little late for the youngsters but it is still school holidays and is traditionally the time for a firework display. It is intended to make this a multicultural celebration and include other Asian groups.



Some new additions to the Garden