

# Botanic Gardens as biodiversity hotspots?

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Dunedin Botanic Gardens  
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Botanic Gardens can play a significant role in plant conservation at local through to global scales. The terminology *biodiversity hotspots* is used internationally using certain criteria to provide a spotlight on highly diverse but threatened parts of the planet. Should this terminology be used by Botanic Gardens or are their contributions better showcased in other ways? Botanic Gardens might be biodiverse but this diversity is not just indigenous biodiversity. Some aspects of managing non-indigenous plant collections are recognised as a challenge with concerns expressed in relation to plants spreading from collections and becoming invasive in the regions that the Botanic Gardens occupy. Botanic Gardens are working hard to raise awareness of such issues and also the importance and values of indigenous plant species and the many threats to indigenous plants in the wild. Botanic Gardens are in a special position as conduits from *ex situ* to *in situ* conservation, and in being able to put the spotlight on global change and threats to the conservation of diversity. Because Botanic Gardens are embedded with people and urban places – an excellent example being the Dunedin Botanic Garden - they have many opportunities to raise awareness of biodiversity conservation, building on their considerable expertise, and becoming crucibles for positive change in urban environments.

***This seminar will be live-streamed, but not recorded.***

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**12:00 noon, Thursday, 28 May 2020**

**Join remotely on Zoom:**

<https://otago.zoom.us/j/3294272033?pwd=RnUrR2VUYnZnSGRmcHo4cDlwTFhrZz09>

**Meeting ID: 329 427 2033**

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