

Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

News and Views September 2000

NEW ADDRESS

The Otari – Wilton's Bush Support Group has a new name and a new address:

OTARI – WILTON'S BUSH TRUST
P.O.BOX 12 – 039
WELLINGTON. 6038

SUPPORT NEEDED FROM MEMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 17TH

Members of the committee are organising refreshments to be served on the deck on September 17th (Native Plant Sale day) from 8 am onwards. They would welcome help with food. Lots of snack type food is needed – muffins, scones, sandwiches etc.

Please phone Margaret Chetwin 475 3289 or Gill Ross 499 0941 if you are able to help.

BE IN TO WIN!

RAFFLE

A copy of the new book by John Dawson and Rob Lucas will be raffled. Tickets will be on sale at Te Marae o Tane, Otari – Wilton's Bush Information Centre on 17th September. Entitled Nature Guide to the New Zealand Forest, and published by Random House, Auckland, this book is a must for your bookshelf. A launch is planned for October. If you don't win the raffle, it will cost \$44.95 at your bookseller

OFFICERS

President: Jock Fleming 149 Wilton Road, Wilton Wellington. Ph 475 8945

Vice President: John Dawson 24 Winston Street, Crofton Downs, Wellington. Ph 4679 7369

Secretary: Margaret Crimp 167 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington. Ph 475 3263

Treasurer: Glen Denby 151 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington Ph 475 8438

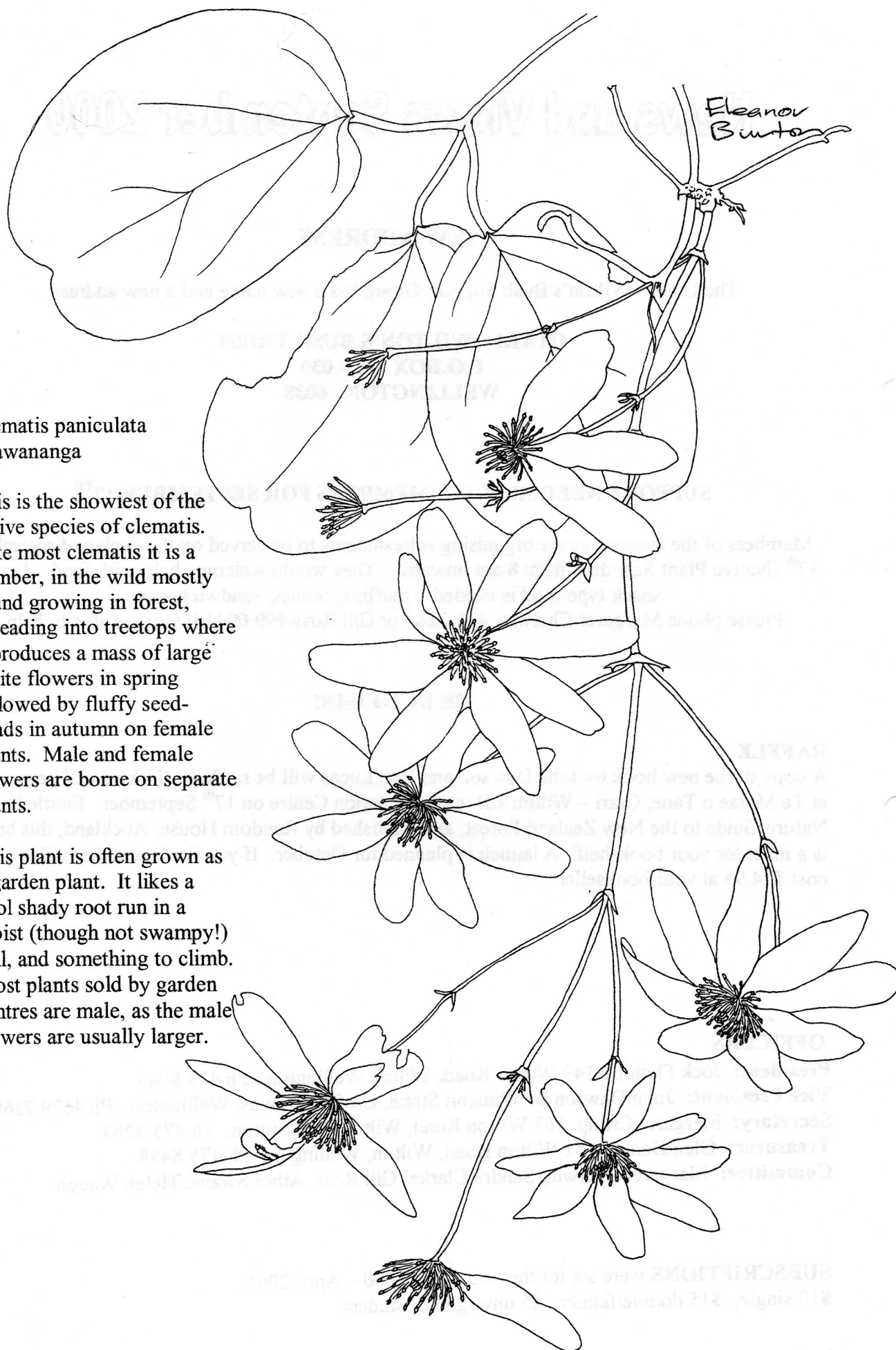
Committee: Margaret Chetwin, Sandra Clarke, Gill Ross, Athol Swann, Helen Waugh.

SUBSCRIPTIONS were set for the year April 2000 – April 2001.
\$10 single, \$15 double/family, \$5 unwaged or student.

Clematis paniculata
puawananga

This is the showiest of the native species of clematis. Like most clematis it is a climber, in the wild mostly found growing in forest, spreading into treetops where it produces a mass of large white flowers in spring followed by fluffy seed-heads in autumn on female plants. Male and female flowers are borne on separate plants.

This plant is often grown as a garden plant. It likes a cool shady root run in a moist (though not swampy!) soil, and something to climb. Most plants sold by garden centres are male, as the male flowers are usually larger.



Notices

PLANT THEFTS

Anita Benbrook, Assistant Curator, has asked that members of the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust be the "eyes" and "ears" for the Reserve when staff are not on duty. Recent plant thefts from the gardens and from the nursery have left us all worse off. A family will be living in the house very soon.

MILK CARTONS NEEDED

One litre washed, unsquashed cardboard milk cartons are required by the staff at Otari – Wilton's Bush for planting out seedlings. Please leave these outside the roller doors below the deck.

SEATING FOR THE DECK

The Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust has established a fund for providing seats on the deck outside Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre and will be working towards raising money for this project. Chunky Charlie seats cost \$1000 each, and benches \$500 each.

Donations towards these seats would be greatly appreciated.

Please send donations to The Treasurer, Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, P.O.Box 12 039, Wellington 6038. Please include your name and address.

WANTED ----- WORKING BEE VOLUNTEERS

We know how fortunate we are to have the Otari – Wilton's Bush Reserve in our midst.

The staff at Otari-Wilton's Bush have many projects in mind, and would really appreciate some assistance and support from us in the development of new trails, revegetation and the creation of a third picnic area. They would also like some help on Thursday mornings with regular maintenance work, tree planting, etc. Tools and equipment are provided.

The committee of the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust are keen to assist, but we need a list of volunteers who would be prepared to give of their time and energy to help occasionally or on a semi-regular basis.

If you would like to join us in any of these worthwhile and enjoyable projects and want further information please contact either

Gill Ross, Ph. 499 0941, Fax 499 0042, or e-mail rossgb@paradise.net.nz

or

Margaret Chetwin, Ph.475 3289, e-mail chetwin@xtra.co.nz

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

OCCASIONAL / XMAS CARDS

Four different cards with superb coloured photos of N.Z. native flora will be on sale at Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre on September 17th. This is another Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust project.

Diary

NATIVE WEEK 17th to 22nd September

Sunday 17th September

Native Plant sale. 9.30 am – 4pm

At Te Marae o Tane, Otari – Wilton's Bush Information Centre

Guided Walks depart every hour from 10 am until 2 pm. Leave from Te Marae o Tane, Otari – Wilton's Bush Information Centre.

Displays

Flax weaving

Hand made pots and painting. Create your own designs and fire them in the raku on site

N.Z. native plant books

Wellington Botanical Society

Noxious pests and plants

Compost, mulch and potting mix

Forest and Bird Society

Animal control

Tea and coffee and snacks on the deck

Otari School Gala

Come and join in the fun next door to the plant sale. Food and drink available.

Pots and Things for sale at 133 Wilton Road (opposite Otari-Wilton's Bush Car Park)

9am to 4.30 pm on Sat and Sun 16th and 17th September.

Monday 18th September

Guided Glow-worm Visit leaves Te Marae o Tane, Wilton's Bush Information Centre at 7 pm. Bring warm clothes and a torch.

Tuesday 19th September

Propagating natives. A talk by Don Escort. Te Marae o Tane, Wilton's Bush Information Centre at 7pm.

Wednesday 20th September

Guided Skyline Walk leaves Te Marae o Tane, Wilton's Bush Information Centre at 10am., and returns there 3 – 4 hours later. Reasonable level of fitness required. Bring a snack and a drink.

Encouraging birds to your garden. A talk by Matthew Lark at 7 pm.

Friday 22nd September at Te Marae o Tane, Otari Wilton's Bush Information Centre.

Organised dog trek at 11am. B.Y.O. dog and lead.

History of Otari-Wilton's Bush. Walk with John and Helen Waugh at 1 pm

History of Otari-Wilton's Bush and surrounds. Talk by John Waugh, Helen Waugh and Sandra Clarke at 7 pm.

Rose Week:

Display of Art among the Flowers. 11th November in the foyer of the Begonia House.

Peter Beale, British author, and specialist in old fashioned and classic roses, will be giving a lecture on Monday 13th November at 8 pm at the Functions Centre, Victoria University of Wellington. Tickets from the Karori Garden Centre and from California Home and Garden.

CLEAN UP NEW ZEALAND 18 – 24 SEPTEMBER 2000

Clean Up New Zealand is part of an international effort under the auspices of the United Nations Environmental Programme, Clean Up the World. Clean Up the World is now in its 11th year and aims to trigger long-term changes in attitudes and behaviour and to foster programmes to reduce waste.

The events planned during the week at Otari-Wilton's Bush are:

September 18th – Monday The Hon. Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment will visit Otari with a party to clean up an area within the Reserve.

September 21st – Thursday 8 am to Midday A group from Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust will meet at Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre to clean up areas specified by the Assistant Curator, Anita Benbrook.

September 23rd – Saturday at 9 am A second group from the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust will meet at Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre. This group will concentrate on cleaning up the Kaiwharawhara Stream, from the northern entrance off Churchill Drive up to or beyond the Shropshire Avenue entrance. Those who have sturdy gumboots, please bring them along on Saturday. Gloves and rubbish bags will be provided free of charge and tea/coffee will be available afterwards at midday.

For more information and registration please contact Jock Fleming Phone 475 8945.

A registration form is also available on the desk in Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre.

Reports

Walk with John Dawson Saturday 17th June

This was a most interesting morning and enjoyed by all who attended. The N.Z. Passion fruit or Kohia (*Passiflora tetrandra*) was spectacular.

General Meeting Tuesday 4th July

The meeting was well attended.

The recommendation was carried that Otari – Wilton's Bush support Group incorporate as a Charitable Trust, and this is in progress.

Anita Benbrook spoke about a number of possible projects on which she felt that the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust could focus. These included

- ❖ The development of a third picnic area in the Upper Kaiwharawhara area.
- ❖ Help in the nursery and help with planting out seedlings and young trees.
- ❖ Fundraising for seating, display panels, collection panels, Wilton's walkway.

Development of the track uphill from the flax clearing. This will provide access back to the red trail and to Chartwell Drive and to the skyline walkway through the Transpower Block.

In the immediate future the efforts of the Committee will be to support the Native Week beginning on 17th September, and help with the programme of walks and talks planned for this. Further activities will be planned for the future.

Connection between Otari-Wilton's Bush and the Outer Town Belt.

Members who had attended a workshop focusing on the planned Outer Town Belt, reported back to the Committee. In response, it was decided to investigate an old track going between the flax clearing and the ridge line. This part of the proposed Outer Town Belt is not at the present time open to the public. The track is in reasonable order. To become usable it requires minimal work cutting back gorse, and the construction of a few steps in especially steep places. The Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust is interested in becoming involved in this project.

Report from Otari Wilton's Bush Staff.

In July and August, 3000 Texan teenagers planted 2000 trees in the Wilton Bush Road area.

The Running Group have planted 500 trees in the Upper Kaiwharawhara valley. Their contribution includes maintaining these plantings.

The Otari-Wilton's Bush staff have planted 300 Beech trees, 150 Kamahi trees and 800 Manuka/Kanuka trees in the Lower Picnic area. Help from volunteers from the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust has been much appreciated. Weeding, mulching and planting in the various collections has continued.

The Threatened Plant Border was opened. Andy Foster represented the Council, and Dorothy Archibald attended on behalf of the Archibald Trust. This Trust paid for the extensions and the renovations of the Border.

The seats on the walkway have been replaced. Added protection for children is now in place.

A donation box has been placed in the Centre. This can also be used for mail, if required.

Drawers in the Friends table are being filled. Two drawers have seeds of the forest. Herbarium samples of trees found along the canopy walkway are being prepared by John Dawson, and will occupy another drawer.

Report from the Guides

People who are interested in Otari-Wilton's Bush and in showing people around the Reserve have been undergoing training, ready for Native Week and for the summer season. More cruise ships are expected in Wellington this summer and Otari-Wilton's Bush will be on the agenda for visits.

A centralised booking system is now available for visits requiring a guide. Please contact the Treehouse, Phone 801 3071 for further information about this.

Report from Otari-Wilton's Bush Hosts

The Host scheme is working well, and providing a worthwhile service to visitors. The hosts are on duty in pairs. During the weekend they look after Te Marae o Tane, the Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Center, and also wander around the Reserve. They work for a two and a half hour shift – either from 11 am to 1.30 pm or from 1.30 pm to 4 pm on Saturday or Sunday. They provide a friendly face for visitors, and answer questions about the facilities and services. Training in general knowledge about the plants, health and safety issues and history is provided by the Otari-Wilton's Bush staff.

More hosts are needed. If you are interested in becoming a host, please contact Leanne Kilallea, Wellington Botanic Garden, Phone 472 5684. At present, hosts are rostered for duty about once a month for two and a half hours on either Saturday or Sunday.

Profile

Jock Fleming

Jock is a retired medical practitioner, who after ten years of practice in Thorndon, established a Health Service for students at Victoria University.

During this time he had a particular interest in Health Service Research and undertook a number of research projects. In addition, he took an active role in professional bodies associated with Sports Medicine, Medical Writing, and Health and Medical Research.

He was involved with the care of overseas students, and enjoyed introducing them to the New Zealand native habitat at the Otari Native Botanic Gardens and Wilton's Bush Reserve.

In retirement, Jock developed pottery skills, in his own workshop, in his garden at Wilton Road. He also took an active part in administrative matters as a committee member and Vice-President of the Wellington Potters Association, and on an executive committee of the New Zealand Society of Potters. He has exhibited successfully at exhibitions.

Jock is a skier and a tramper, and regularly visits the South Island to take part in these sports.

He feels extremely fortunate to have lived for forty five years in close proximity to Otari and its native bush, and appreciates to the full its progress, and the recent major developments

He was Chairman of the Steering Committee which established the Support Group out of which the OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST was later formed.

His special interests in Otari Wilton's Bush are to ensure its preservation / its use as an education and research venue for the study of native plants / the development of its recreational benefits. / the establishment of corridors to adjacent open space areas / and linkage with organisations which share our interests in conservation, environmental and ecological issues,

Book Review

Contributed by Sandra Clarke

CAVE, Yvonne and Paddison, Yvonne

The gardener's encyclopaedia of New Zealand native plants. Auckland; Random House. 1999.

At long last a gardener's dictionary of N.Z. plants to put on your shelf beside the Royal Horticultural Society dictionaries. It covers a different point of view to books by Metcalfe, Eagle, Fisher etc and makes no apologies for being a gardener's selection of plants. The most attractive and helpful photos are complimented by an easily consulted text. It will enable people growing natives to have more success in keeping their gardens full of healthy happy plants, without doing a botanical gymnastic course through the quite significant collection of books on N.Z. flora published in the last 30 years. It is good to see the contribution to the work by Mike Oates and Anita Benbrook acknowledged. The authors have even retrieved the cultivars from the "sin bin". The book was a finalist in this year's Montana Book awards.

Historical Spot

Contributed by Helen Waugh

The Memorial Gates at the Northern Wilton Road entrance to the Reserve, were donated by the Wilton Family in memory of "JOB WILTON Esq. and his wife, ELLEN CURTIS, pioneer owners 1860 – 1902, who loved and preserved the bush." These gates span the original access roadway to Job and Ellen Wilton's farmhouse. This roadway is incorporated into the Circular Track going downhill from the Memorial Gates to the bottom entrance at Wilton Bush Road. The Wilton's roadway was evenly graded and suitable for loaded bullock wagons.

Your feet will tell you when you come to the old roadway, just downhill from the second left-hand side track. If you pause here, you can see the remains of the concrete weir built across the stream to contain a fish pond. The pond was once deep enough for the Wilton youngsters to enjoy a swim. Just past the third side path to the left, and just further on than the seat, you will notice that the path suddenly gets steeper. A glance along the right hand bank will let you know that the bullocks had it easier! Their road headed for the bridge that is now part of the drive to Wilton House, and proceeded via this drive to the present Wilton Bush Road, and then up Black Bridge Road to Wadestown.

Older members of the Wilton community will recall other reminders of farming days. The water wheel which used to be across Wilton Road opposite the Memorial Gates once powered a chaffcutter in an adjacent shed. It and the dam behind it date back to 1889. A brick lime kiln, built in 1890, is now buried under the track just inside the Memorial Gates. Allan Wilton, Job and Ellen's son, said he "used to burn 70 sacks of oyster shells every fortnight. They could smell them in Wadestown."

Allan Wilton also told his descendants, "The roadway from the house was completed in about 1877. It took many years to complete, as it was only worked at in slack times"