

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## News and Views August 2002

Check the web site to keep up-to-date with events: [www.owb.co.nz](http://www.owb.co.nz) or ring (04) 499 1400

### DIARY

Saturday 7 Sept  
9.30am to 11am

**First plant care working party**

Saturday 7 Sept  
11am

**An End of Winter Planting Celebration for Volunteers**

Venue: Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre

Sunday 15 Sept  
9.30am to 2pm

**Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day & Native Plant Sale**

Guided walks at 11am, 12 noon, 1pm. Meet at the Totara tree on the deck of the Information Centre.

Sunday 15 Sept  
7pm &  
Wedn 18 Sept  
7pm

**Guided Glow Worm Visit**

Enjoy the bush by night.

*Leader: Barbara Mitcalfe*

\$4.00/\$3.00PTL (Passport to Leisure). Bookings: 499 1400

Tuesday 17 Sept  
7pm

**Landscaping with Natives**

*Leader: Julia Williams*

Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane.

\$2.00. Bookings 499 1400

Wedn 18 Sept  
10am

**Guided Skyline walk**

3 – 4 hour walk with magnificent views over Wellington.

Meet on the deck of the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane  
Good fitness and footwear essential.

Bring lunch and a drink. No dogs. Bookings 499 1400

Saturday 21 Sept  
9.30am to 12 noon

**Clean-up New Zealand Week**

Clean up the Kaiwharawhara stream.

Meet at the Information Centre.

Sunday 22 Sept  
9.30am & 2.00pm

**Identifying our flora**

Two separate workshops to identify commonly encountered forest trees, shrubs and vines. Each workshop has a different set of plants and both are suitable for first timers.

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

\$3.00. Bookings: 499 1400

Wedn 23 Oct to  
Saturday 30 Nov

**New Zealand Plants and their Communities**

Three Wednesday 7pm to 9pm lectures and study of plant specimens. Three Saturday field trips.

*Leader: Dr. John Dawson*

Onslow College Continuing Education Ph: 477 1118

Sunday 27 Oct  
2 pm

**Sunday walk – The Kohekohe Trails**

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Meet at the Information Centre., Te Marae o Tane

## Help wanted.....

### **\* Support for the Waterfall viewing platform**

We extend our thanks to The Community Trust of Wellington for their generous support of the Waterfall Viewing Platform project. If you would like to assist with sponsorship or donations to allow us to complete this project, please contact Bill Winstanley.

*Bill Winstanley, ph: 478 6178*

### **\* Cake and coffee stall**

This is a request for contributions to the Cake and Coffee Stall at the Otari Open Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Thanks to the generosity and splendid baking of contributors (both male and female), we made \$500 profit last year. It would be great to repeat this. Get out those recipe books and also encourage friends to get cooking! We would welcome baked goods of any kind, sweet and savoury, as well as sandwiches and slices – all to be sold as individual pieces or as cake stall items.

Goods can be left at the Otari- Wilton's Bush Information Centre until 6 pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, or brought to us anytime from 8 am on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> September. We would be most grateful for any contributions you are able to make.

*Margaret Chetwin, ph: 475 3289*

### **\* Reception at Otari**

It would be useful if there were some form of reception facility at Otari-Wilton's Bush during the working week. I wonder if this could be arranged on a volunteer basis. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in being involved in a roster for this purpose.

*Bill Winstanley, ph: 478 6178*

### **\* Washed unsquashed milk cartons**

Milk cartons are ideal for planting out tree seedlings. If you can help by donating used cartons, please leave them in the bins under the deck at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane.

### **\* Plant Care Working Parties**

Come along and help with releasing and staking plants on the first Saturday of each month.

*Bronwen Wall, ph: 472 5891*

### **\* Clean-up New Zealand Week**

Volunteers are needed to clean up the Kaiwharawhara Stream. Wear gumboots or other waterproof footwear. Plastic gloves and rubbish bags will be provided. There will be morning tea back at the Information Centre at the finish. Saturday 21 September, 9.30 to noon.

*Margaret Crimp, ph: 475 3263*

## Chairman's Report

The newly elected board has settled in well and you will be able to read elsewhere in this newsletter about the various things being done by staff, board members, guides and hosts, to improve Otari-Wilton's Bush and to increase the public enjoyment of the reserve.

I am pleased to be able to report that a substantial grant from The Community Trust of Wellington has enabled the board to seek quotations for the erection of a viewing platform and some path re-alignment at the waterfall. It is intended that the work be done in October/November, outside of the season for glow- worm tours. The project is not yet fully funded and further donations would be appreciated.

The revegetation project for the Kaiwharawhara riparian areas is currently the board's most ambitious project and significant progress is being made with this. The bands of volunteers working under the supervision of Jonathan Kennett and Bronwen Wall are making excellent progress and the carpet square protection used with many of the new plantings this year should give those plants a more competitive edge. So far, we have escaped those severe frosts that were so damaging last year: let us hope for that state of affairs to continue.

The Kaiwharawhara revegetation project would not have been possible without the encouragement and grants from the Wellington City Council and the Wellington Regional Council. The Trust derives its finances mainly from subscriptions, card sales, donations, and from guided tours. A further innovation by our past chairman, Dr John Dawson, has been a number of seminars on plant identification that have added to our revenue flow during the last year. It is clear, though, that if major projects for the reserve are to be considered, sponsorship will be required.

Cockayne recognised the potential of Otari to become the national native botanic garden of New Zealand. The various developments that have taken place since its establishment in 1926 has enabled Otari to build up a world-class reputation for its plant collections but its funding base is limited and some of its facilities, for example the nursery, could stand substantial improvement. To lift its funding base, or to attract alternative funding sources for major capital projects, the general public needs to be persuaded to see Otari as a national treasure. The board is investigating ways of lifting Otari's public profile and hopes to develop a marketing plan for the reserve within its current term.

*Bill Winstanley*

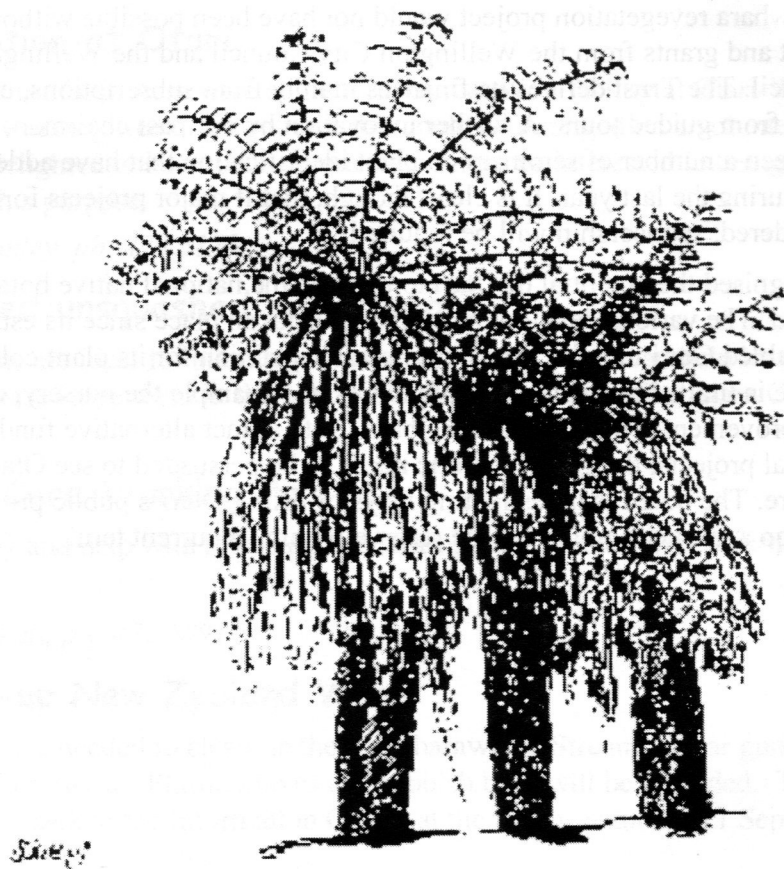
## Symbol for Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

*Wheki-ponga* or *kuripaka* symbolises strength. It is the only tree fern in New Zealand that tolerates open country reasonable well. It symbolises durability: trunk slabs were used by Maori as the rat-resistant cladding for their *pataka* (food stores).

*Wheki-ponga* is endemic (native only to New Zealand) and symbolises the affinity that New Zealanders have towards their tree fern species, such a prominent feature of the natural landscape.

The group of tree ferns is intended to symbolise the association shared by the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, the Wellington City Council and the people of New Zealand, whose treasure the reserve is. Our thanks go to Sue Davey for the drawing below.

The Trust is looking to create a logo from the image of the *Wheki-ponga*. Please contact Bill Winstanley with any suggestions or comments. Ph: 478 6178





## Otari-Wilton's Bush Staff Report

We are delighted at the fabulous winter that we are having. It has been so good establishing the new revegetation plants without submitting them to the hard frosts like last year. Hope it's not too soon to say that! The carmine rata, *Metrosideros carminea*, is covered in masses of flower buds at Cockayne's Lookout and on the fence next to the Wilton Entrance by the Bowling Club and will flower beautifully if it stays frost free.

We have been truly grateful that the Trust were able to appoint Jonathan and Bronwen to organise the revegetation planting this year. These two are so enthusiastic and are giving the commitment and enthusiasm that the project deserves.

We are sad that Nicole has decided to leave us after making such a great impact on the Generic Borders over the past year. We wish Nicole and her husband well.

The year is racing past at double time with Open Day almost here. We have over 3000 plants for the sale this year including almost 200 ferns and plenty of hard to get plants grown from Otari stock.

I will be attending a congress at the RBG Sydney at the end of September for 10 days. It is entitled **Connecting with Plants-Lessons for Life** and focuses on education in Botanic Gardens. The main discussion will be relevant to evaluation and research, multiculturalism and indigenous issues with interpretation, linking science with sustainability, forming partnerships, and novel methods of interpretation and communication. I am currently working on building an Education Strategy for Otari-Wilton's Bush and then the Botanic Garden.

Soon after that, in November, we hope to have our new database installed. It is called BG-Base and is a relational database designed for living collection management. With practice it is user friendly but more importantly is a tool for developing and managing our plant collections with that all staff will be using. There is a tiny bit more testing that we need to do before confirming the order.

On a more practical angle, David is working on planning and planting up the border next to the Caretakers house. After much discussion it will have a mixed theme, including adult and juvenile, but will tie in the Home Garden with Banks Entrance so should be inspiring to look at!

Tim has just done some major thinning in the Wild Garden removing a lot of mahoe and the old whau. With improved light in there he hopes to establish a collection of plants from Northland and the Chatham Islands.

Nicole has done a lot of planning for the redevelopment of the Generic Borders including a garden with a Wellington Plant theme. We will continue with that idea and several others she had started including plants that attract butterflies and birds.

Our apprentice has just changed and now we have Paula Rogers here for the next three months. Very shortly she will be doing some serious renovating in the Hebe Cultivar Border, long overdue. It will be nice to watch how some of the more recent cultivars cope with Wellington conditions.

*Jane Wright*

## Farewell from Leanne

Farewell, I'm off to new adventures.

My time within the Botanic Garden and Otari-Wilton's Bush has been great! I've had a marvellous time and have been able to do so many wonderful things. Both are amazing places to work and learn and that's perhaps what I've really enjoyed the most. So now I'm off to the big wide world of University where, no doubt, I shall learn a whole lot more.

So, as I will no longer be an employee I thought I would become a member of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust so as I can carry on receiving the news, gossip and keep in touch with the many fine people who support this fabulous place. Some of you will also see my name on the host roster. So I will see you all around only this time I won't be in a WCC uniform.

A big thanks to those of you that have contributed to making my job easier and providing me with the information I've needed. And thanks also to those of you that help to make this place a fantastic place to visit. I have appreciated it.

*Leanne Killalea*

## Guided Tours May-August 2002

We have been fortunate that all three of the monthly Trust walks have been able to operate in this period and reasonable numbers of people have participated. The walk on 23 June focussed on tree ferns following the very successful workshop on that topic the previous day.

It was a delight to have a small party of Chinese foresters visit Otari in July, their first exposure to a New Zealand forest. As a consequence of that tour, the Chinese embassy has indicated that we might be asked to cater for a tour by 100 Chinese visitors in January next.

Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne guided a glow-worm walk for party of Brownies and their parents in July and that proved very successful. The letter of thanks we received for the guides' services glowed brighter than the glow-worms. It is useful to have this sort of feedback.

We had 37 hardy souls from the Kapiti Horticultural Society with us on 9 August, a cold, wet day. Despite the weather, they enjoyed their visit and many had their appetites whetted to return to Otari-Wilton's Bush. I gather they saw more birds in the reserve than they encountered at their next port of call, the Karori Sanctuary.

*Bill Winstanley*

# KAIWHARAWHARA STREAM REVEGETATION

## Report on progress

Jonathan and Bronwen report that planting this season is keeping to schedule. The steady flow of volunteers has made sure that each work party has planted over 200 plants each Saturday.

The regular weekend rain during this winter has challenged the volunteer's efforts, but on the other hand, the plants have soaked it up and are thriving.

## Plant care after the winter planting

The project managers will be leading 'plant care' work parties, to start up immediately after the planting season this year. These will be held on *the first Saturday of every month* and will involve inspecting the sites, setting up plots on each site to monitor plant growth, releasing the plants, and staking plants that need it.

This is a necessary ingredient to successful planting and will increase the survival rate.

All we need are willing volunteers equipped with their most comfortable gardening clothes and weeding tools, sun hats, and loads of enthusiasm.

## A Celebration - End of planting get-together

Time: 11 am

Date: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2002

Venue: Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre

All volunteers and supervisors are invited to this celebration.

John Holmes of the Wellington Regional Council will be host.

Events will include:

- An expression of thanks
- A slide-show by Jonathan of memorable tree planting moments
- A quick word from the project managers on plant care
- Morning tea

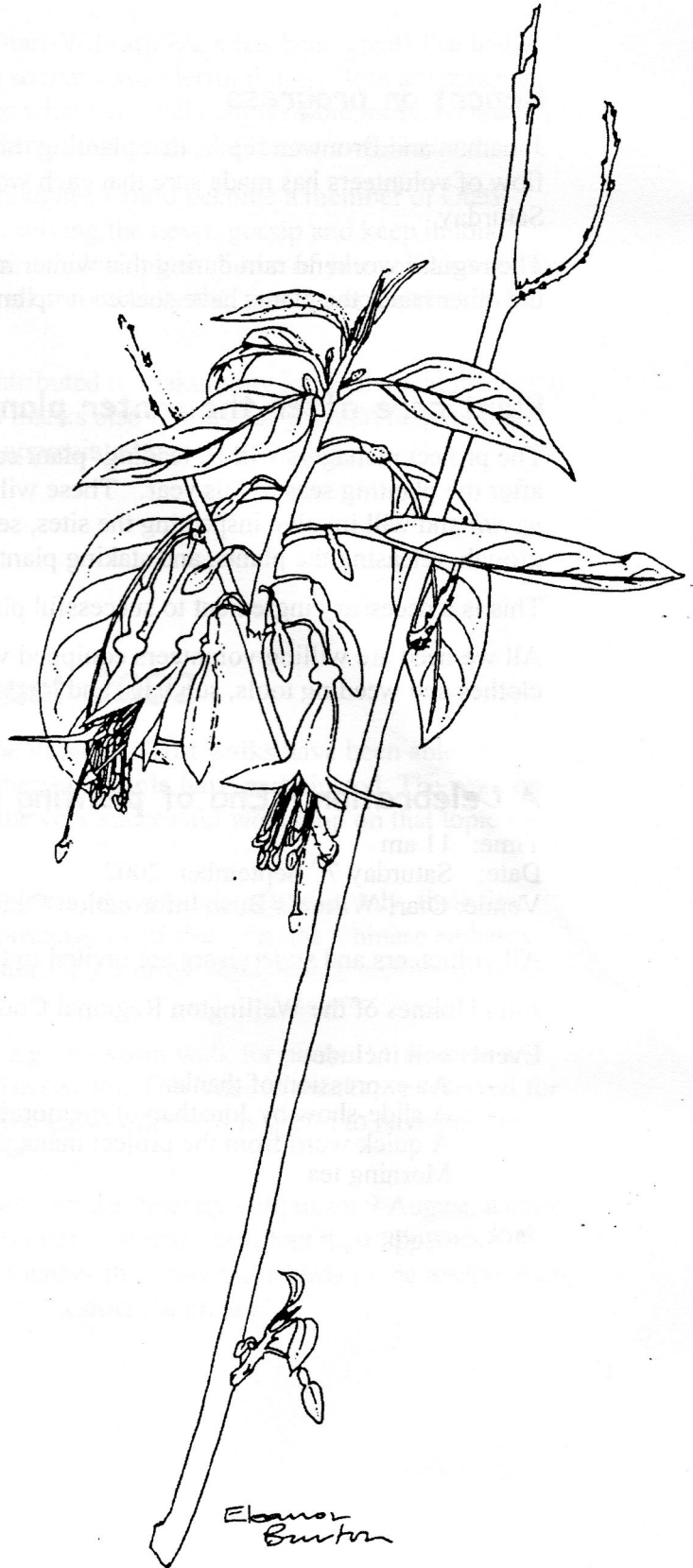
*Jock Fleming*

*Fuchsia excorticata*

Kotukutuku, tree fuchsia

This is the worlds largest species of Fuchsia, and is found throughout New Zealand from sea level to about 1000m.

Usually a small tree, this species is mostly found in stream beds and likes damp sheltered places. It is an attractive tree with distinctive reddish bark which peels off the trunk in long strips. It is one of very few deciduous native trees. The flowers are green and purple when they open out, darkening to red when fully open. The trees in Bush City at Te Papa are just starting to flower now, and are rather early. The fruit is very popular with birds.





## OFFICERS

Please contact your committee members with any suggestions on the work of the Trust.

Chairman	Bill Winstanley Phone: (04) 478 6178 Email: <a href="mailto:winstanley@xtra.co.nz">winstanley@xtra.co.nz</a>	Convenor: Education, Research, Hosting and Guiding Sub-Committee
Deputy Chairman	Dr. Jock Fleming Phone: (04) 475 8945 Email: <a href="mailto:jockfleming@actrix.gen.nz">jockfleming@actrix.gen.nz</a>	Convenor: Publicity and Improvement Projects Sub-Committees
Secretary	Margaret Crimp Phone: (04) 475 3263 Email: <a href="mailto:m.crimp@xtra.co.nz">m.crimp@xtra.co.nz</a>	
Treasurer	Glenn Denby Phone: (04) 475 8438 Email: <a href="mailto:denbysahar@internet.co.nz">denbysahar@internet.co.nz</a>	Convenor: Membership Sub-Committee
	Maryann Nesbitt Phone: (04) 389 5120 Email: <a href="mailto:maryann@iconz.co.nz">maryann@iconz.co.nz</a>	Convenor: Newsletter Sub-Committee
	Gordon Purdie Phone: (04) 479 5548 Email: <a href="mailto:purdie@wnmeds.ac.nz">purdie@wnmeds.ac.nz</a>	
	Athol Swann Phone: (04) 472 8417 Email: <a href="mailto:athol.swann@paradise.net.nz">athol.swann@paradise.net.nz</a>	Convenor: Trading, Land and Boundaries Sub-committees
	Sue Usher Phone: 4796857 Email: <a href="mailto:sue.usher@paradise.net.nz">sue.usher@paradise.net.nz</a>	

ADDRESS: OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST, 160 WILTON ROAD, WILTON

## Some ideas for gifts...

### \*Cards

We have added a further four cards to our range featuring photos from the book 'Nature Guide to the New Zealand Forest' by John Dawson and Rob Lucas. These are: Ponga *Cyathea dealbata*, Kakabeak *Clianthus puniceus*, Hinau *Elaeocarpus dentatus*, and Parataniwha *Elatostema rugosum*.

The full range will be available at the Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre (Te Marae O Tane) on the Open Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2002 and from hosts at the Centre on most weekends. The cost is \$7.50 for a pack of four, or \$2 if purchased singly.

Sue Usher, ph 479 6857

### \*Trust membership

If you would like to give someone a membership to the Trust as a gift, we are happy to help. Just use the membership form at the back of this newsletter.

Glenn Denby, ph 475 8438

# OTARI - WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## Membership Application Form

Our membership year is from 1 April to 31 March. New members joining after 1 February will have the membership accredited to the following year. Membership entitles you to receive our newsletter and receive notification of all forthcoming activities at Otari - Wilton's Bush.

I wish to join the Trust .....

(name of new member)

Postal Address .....

.....

.....

Telephone ( ).....(Home) E-mail.....

Billing Name and Address .....

(if different from above) .....

Subscription:	Double/Family	\$15	<input type="text"/>
	Individual	\$10	<input type="text"/>
	Student/Unwaged	\$5	<input type="text"/>

Donation: \$

Total (please enclose your cheque) \$

Payment:

The Trust is registered as a Charitable organisation and donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible. We will automatically send you a receipt for tax purposes. We regret we cannot process payments by Credit Card.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please indicate the areas of interest to you from the following list:

☐ Work parties

☐ Weekend hosting at Otari  
Information Centre

☐ Fund raising

Please send your application to: The Treasurer  
Otari Wilton's Bush  
160 Wilton Road  
Wilton  
Wellington

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**Community Trust**  
*of Wellington*

