

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## News and Views November 2002

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

### DIARY

Saturday 7 Dec  
9.30am to 11am

#### **Plant care work party**

Last chance to tend the Kaiwharawhara streamside revegetation plants before Christmas.

*Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett, ph 472 5891*

Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

Sunday 22 Dec  
2 pm

#### **Sunday walk: Snakes, rickers, and vine gobblers: a walk on the wild side in Otari Wilton's Bush**

Stout footwear recommended

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Meet at the Information Centre., Te Marae o Tane

Saturday 4 Jan  
9.30am to 11am

#### **Plant care work party**

Kick those New Year's resolutions off to a good start. Come on the first plant care work party for 2003.

*Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett, ph 472 5891*

Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

Sunday 26 Jan  
2 pm

#### **Sunday walk: Seeing red. Another walk on the wild side in Otari Wilton's Bush**

Stout footwear recommended

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

Saturday 1 Feb  
9.30am to 11am

#### **Plant care work party**

Back from summer holidays? Keen to see how the plants are doing in the reveg. sites? Come along to this month's plant care work party.

*Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett, ph 472 5891*

Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

Sunday 23 Feb  
9.30 am – 12 noon

#### **Workshop: Getting to grips with divaricating trees and shrubs**

A workshop on identifying commonly encountered divaricating trees and shrubs

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

\$3.00. Bookings: 499 1400

Sunday 23 Feb  
2 pm

#### **Sunday walk: Divaricating trees and shrubs in Otari Wilton's Bush**

Stout footwear recommended

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

## Help wanted.....

### \* Plant Care Work Parties

Come along and help with releasing and staking plants on the first Saturday of each month. Any queries, please phone Bronwen or Jonathan on 472 5891.

### \* Standards New Zealand: "Tracks and Structures Handbook"

Standards New Zealand has released a draft of DZ8630 - Specifications for Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures for peer review. You can download the document free from the Standards New Zealand website, [www.standards.co.nz/drafts/default.htm](http://www.standards.co.nz/drafts/default.htm). Comments on the document are due on 18 December 2002.

### \* 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.

## Some ideas for gifts.....

### \* Greeting cards and booklets

Christmas is coming!

Have you considered Otari-Wilton's Bush greeting cards as your Christmas cards this year -- particularly appropriate for overseas family and friends -- or as a small gift or stocking "stuffer"?

These attractive cards feature photos of native plants and are available in packs of four (\$7.50) or individually (\$2). There are now 12 different cards from which to choose.

We also have available a well presented and illustrated 52 page booklet featuring Otari-Wilton's Bush as well as the Wellington Botanic Garden. Price \$13.50. This is a great gift from an overseas family member or friend.

The funds raised by selling these cards and booklets enable the Trust to assist with improvements and facilities to enhance our visits to Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Contact: Sue Usher, phone 479 6857 or email [sue.usher@paradise.net.nz](mailto:sue.usher@paradise.net.nz) for further information or orders.

### \*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*

## To contact the Trust Board:

Address: Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, 160 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington

<b>Chairman</b>	Bill Winstanley, Ph: (04) 478 6178	Email: <a href="mailto:winstanley@xtra.co.nz">winstanley@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Margaret Crimp, Ph: (04) 475 3263	Email: <a href="mailto:m.crimp@xtra.co.nz">m.crimp@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenn Denby, Ph: (04) 475 8438	Email: <a href="mailto:denbysahar@internet.co.nz">denbysahar@internet.co.nz</a>

## Report from Bill Winstanley, Chairman

The fortunes of Otari-Wilton's Bush are in decline. The operating expenses allocated for the reserve in 1995 were \$160,000. Seven years later, in 2002, they have risen to \$180,000, an increase of 12.5%, which over 7 years represents an increment of 1.78% per annum, less than the rate of inflation. Annual inflation was running at about 2.6% in August this year. Ways must be found to arrest this decline and improve the financial position of the reserve.

In the last newsletter, I touched on the issue of raising the profile of Otari-Wilton's Bush and the development of a marketing plan for the reserve. This is a longstanding issue that has been a feature in previous management plans for the reserve and is prominent in the Otari Native Botanic Garden Management Plan of 1996.

Section 3.7.7 of the management plan deals with the promotion and marketing of the reserve by promoting the national significance of the reserve, its special identity and, by identifying in promotional material, how to get there. Elsewhere in the plan, it is acknowledged that "Otari does have the potential to maintain a higher profile as a nationally significant native botanic garden, with an international reputation....." Importantly, it is stated that "It can be promoted as a stand-alone attraction....." Unfortunately, the management plan has not been fully implemented in respect of promotion and marketing.

So far, the promotion of Otari-Wilton's Bush has tended to be linked with that for the Wellington Botanic Garden, to the detriment of the reserve as the following recent advertisements show:

**Wellington Botanic Garden.** Stunning 26-hectare garden, walking distance from the city. Includes award winning Lady Norwood Rose Garden, Begonia House, plant collections, floral displays and sculpture walk."

**Otari-Wilton's Bush Native Botanic Garden and Forest Reserve.** Botanic garden dedicated solely to native plants. Includes original native bush, plant collections, treetop canopy walkway, alpine garden, fernery and picnic site with gas barbeques. 6km from the city."

The Trust Board has been working closely with Wellington City Council staff on the promotion issue and some significant progress has been made. One initiative by Council staff has been to include questions about Otari-Wilton's Bush in its regular telephone surveys of residents, with some interesting results. The survey showed that a significant proportion of Wellington residents are unaware of the reserve's existence.

A survey that sought information from residents on what they would advise friends and relatives visiting Wellington to do also revealed that visiting Te Papa was overwhelmingly the number one choice, recommended by 70% of respondents. Shopping in the downtown area (20 percent) and visiting the Botanic Garden (17 percent) were second and third. The Karori Wildlife Sanctuary was only recommended five percent of the time. Significantly, Otari-Wilton's Bush did not feature. Clearly, there is a need for promotion if Otari-Wilton's Bush is to match its management plan description as "one of Wellington's best known reserves".

One significant impediment to promotion has been identified as the name applied to the reserve. The Trust Board has come to the conclusion that a better descriptive name is needed for the reserve and I would urge you to consider carefully the article later in the newsletter on re-naming the reserve.

## Otari-Wilton's Bush Staff Report

It is only a couple of months since the last Newsletter but so much has happened! I will start by thanking all the Trust members, guides, hosts and volunteers who worked so hard to make Open Day a roaring success. We were relieved to have a glorious day and most of our visitors seemed relaxed and enjoyed the experience. We raised almost \$20,000 from the plant sale, which pleased those who need to be pleased!

Since then we have had a good spring, a bit too much wind for some of us not yet accustomed to Wellington's climate, but it has been great to see a successful flowering of the carmine rata and other things that have been frosted in previous years. The Dracophyllum Garden is looking very smart with its new bark mulch and the Chatham Island forget-me-nots have flowered quite well in spite of some serious competition from the tawa roots. If you haven't been here recently now is a good time to come for a look. The hinau will flower this month, the trees are heavily laden with buds.

We are pleased to announce that Eleanor Burton has been brought to Otari-Wilton's Bush full time and is now supervising the Generic Borders, Fernery and the Rock Garden. I am in the process of filling the half time position that has been left.

Our new Visitor Services Officer Amber Wilkie has also just started. She is based at the Botanic Garden and has taken over some of Leanne's old roles concentrating on marketing, information and events.

Myfanwy Hill has started with Parks and Gardens as our Volunteer Co-ordinator and will cover the other part of Leanne's old role. I am looking forward to working with Myfanwy and hope we can all meet with her before Christmas.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and an enjoyable summer!

*Jane Wright and Otari-Wilton's Bush staff*

## Volunteer Co-ordinator's Report

I am the new Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Parks and Gardens Business Unit. One of my first tasks has been the roster for the Otari-Wilton's Bush Hosts so please let me know if there is anything I should have done differently.

First a little bit of background about myself. I have completed a Bachelors degree in ecology and zoology and am close to completing my thesis and therefore my Masters degree in ecology. I am also the Volunteer Co-ordinator at Wellington Zoo and will continue to work both jobs part-time. Prior to being employed at the Zoo I spent 2 years working in conjunction with the Department of Conservation while researching my thesis in Whirinaki Forest, which is on the diet and dispersal of kereru in a lowland podocarp-hardwood forest. I have been heavily involved in volunteer work myself for a number of different conservation and animal welfare organisations and understand the trials and joys of volunteer work!

I look forward to meeting everyone eventually, either at one of the next Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust meetings or on one of my frequent visits to the area.

*Myfanwy Hill  
Volunteer Co-ordinator*

## **Guided Tours August-November 2002**

It has really been an exciting time on the tour front over the last few months. Including the ever-popular glow- worm walks, there have been 10 tours catered for. One of those tours, for 38 people, coincided with Open Day and we had no prior knowledge that the group was coming. The volunteer guides who were in for the regular Open Day guided walks coped very well with that unforeseen challenge.

John Dawson conducted two more sessions on identifying the flora on 22 September and they were very well received. Those who participated in both sessions went away with knowing more than 40 native species. One or two have been on subsequent Trust walks exercising their new skills. It is hoped that John will run a session on identifying the divaricating shrubs and trees in the not too distant future.

Our newest twist on the guiding scene has been a challenge met by Olaf John to give advice on the design and planting of a small suburban garden in native species. The challenge was offered to the guides to raise a donation for Otari-Wilton's Bush and Olaf relished the task.

We have had a few glowing letters of thanks for the tours we have arranged this period. It is good to have this feedback on the activities of the guides and to realise how well that Otari-Wilton's Bush is appreciated by those who visit.

The Trust Board joins with me in thanking all of our guides for their volunteered services.

*Bill Winstanley,  
Guide Co-ordinator*

## **Re-naming Otari-Wilton's Bush Native Botanic Garden and Forest Reserve**

As a preliminary to the preparation of a marketing strategy for Otari-Wilton's Bush, a team comprising Council and Trust Board personnel joined to brainstorm a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunity, threats) analysis of the reserve. The current name of the reserve was identified as one of the weaknesses for any promotion strategy.

Marketing literature suggests that one must have a *positioning statement* (or *brand*) that describes the image the target market is intended to perceive. What one is looking for is an answer to the question: "What does your target audience perceive when it sees or hears the name of your organisation?" Pose that question about Otari-Wilton's Bush to an out-of-town visitor and the response is likely to be "Not much". The promotion team, and subsequently the Trust Board, came to the conclusion that a name is needed that defines in a more arresting way what Otari-Wilton's Bush represents.

Just what the reserve represents elicited a range of elements in the SWOT analysis. Collectively, those elements present the reserve as a botanic garden, of national importance as the only New Zealand botanic garden dedicated solely to native plants, and of international stature for exactly the same reason. Those are the basic elements that one might want visitors to Wellington perceive but it is important too for any name to reflect

the conservation history that stems from Wilton's Bush and the origins of the initial scenic reserve derived from the purchase of Maori lands in the Otari Native Reserve.

Bringing all of those threads together in a name is a challenge. A number of versions have been tried on the Trust Board, Otari-Wilton's Bush staff, the hosts who assist in the reserve, tree planters, the guides, and guided groups. What is important is there has been almost unanimous support for a change to a name that more clearly enunciates the important status of the reserve. There has been no unanimity on what the name should be but **Otari-Wilton's Bush National Native Botanic Garden of New Zealand** embraces the features that most of those canvassed believe should be in it. Opinion is divided whether "of New Zealand" is necessary if it is a National Native Botanic Garden but the inclusion is believed to follow overseas trends.

As you will have seen in my opening report in this newsletter, it is critical that there be some improvement in the funding for the reserve. It is expected that an organisation recognised and branded as of national and international importance might attract local and regional funds more readily and be seen as more worthy of national sponsorship for large projects. Your views on the proposal would be appreciated.

*Bill Winstanley*  
Chairman

## **New Host Records for Puriri Moth Larvae**

The puriri moth (*Aenetus virescens*) is our largest native moth, found only in the North Island. Its larva spends much of its life (up to 4 years) in a tunnel bored into a tree or shrub. It feeds on callus tissue formed around the mouth of the tunnel and disguises its presence by covering the tunnel entrance under a web of silk.

Dr J.R. Grehan has written a number of scientific papers on aspects of the life history of the puriri moth and devoted one of them to the host range of the species (*NZ Entomologist*, 1984, Volume 8, pp52-61). The larvae invade a wide range of hosts, both native and exotic, but many of those hosts prove unable to sustain the larva to pupation and adult emergence.

There is a grove of *Pomaderris apetala* alongside the track to the Troup picnic area in Otari-Wilton's Bush. *P.apetala* has not been recorded as a host of the moth but many of them have been attacked and the size of the tunnels and feeding scars would suggest that many larvae have survived in the species to emergence. I have been observing one occupied tunnel for about a year, hoping to confirm the tree as a terminal host. Unfortunately, the larvae ringbarked the tree, terminating its host.

I found a couple of vacated puriri moth tunnels in an *Olearia paniculata x angulata* "Windcheater", beside the Cockayne lawn, on 9 November 2002. Neither of the two species from which this hybrid is derived has been recorded as a host but Dr Grehan mentions *Olearia rani* as a marginal host species. Again, one of the tunnels appeared to be large enough to suggest that the moth survived to emergence.

*Bill Winstanley*

# 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) .....

<b>Subscription:</b>	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