

# OTARI-WILTON

## News and Views June 2003

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

Every Saturday  
7<sup>th</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> August  
9am to 11am

#### Tree planting work party

*Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett*  
Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

Contact: Mary Nawalowalo ph 478 2949  
Email: [jonathan@kennett.co.nz](mailto:jonathan@kennett.co.nz)

Sunday 22 June  
2 pm

#### Sunday walk:

Discover Wellington's largest kauri plantation established in 1929 at Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Stout footwear recommended

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Meet at the Information Centre., Te Marae o Tane

Sunday 13 July,  
9.30 – 3.30pm

#### Propagation workshop

Propagation and care of plants and plant collections in the Botanic Gardens

Treehouse Visitor Centre, Wellington Botanic Garden  
Join our informative speakers and learn about tree and shrub planting and maintenance techniques, plant propagation techniques, the Camellia Collection and floral bedding design, installation and maintenance techniques.

Book at the Treehouse Visitor Centre by phoning 499 1400  
Cost: Seminars \$10, Lunch catered by Blue Carrot Catering \$5.

Sunday 27 July  
2 pm

#### Sunday walk:

A walk to the giant rimu, spotting vines and perching plants along the way

Stout footwear recommended

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

Sunday 24 August  
2 pm

#### Sunday walk:

A walk from the Wild Garden and Fernery via the Canopy Walkway to the Lookout with many interesting plants along the way.(All on one level)

Stout footwear recommended

*Leader: Dr John Dawson*

Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

## Help wanted.....

### \* Tree Planting Work Parties

Come along and help with planting trees each Saturday until the end of August. Any queries, please phone Mary on 478 2949.

### \* 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.

## To contact the Trust Board:

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

**Chairman** Bill Winstanley, Ph: (04) 478 6178 Email: [winstanley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:winstanley@xtra.co.nz)

**Secretary** Margaret Crimp, Ph: (04) 475 3263 Email: [m.crimp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.crimp@xtra.co.nz)

**Treasurer** Glenn Denby, Ph: (04) 475 8438 Email: [denbysahar@internet.co.nz](mailto:denbysahar@internet.co.nz)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Trust AGM was held on May 1st with 25 members attending. The following members were elected to the Board:

- Chairman: Bill Winstanley:  
Phone: 478 6178 [winstanley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:winstanley@xtra.co.nz)  
Convenor of subcommittee: Education, Research, Hosting and Guiding, Marketing
- Deputy Chairman: Dr. Jock Fleming,  
Phone: 977 8948 [jockfleming@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jockfleming@paradise.net.nz)  
Convenor of subcommittees: Improvement projects, Lands and boundaries
- Secretary: Margaret Crimp  
Phone: 4753263 [m.crimp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.crimp@xtra.co.nz)
- Treasurer: Glenn Denby:  
Phone: 475 8438 [denbysahar@internet.co.nz](mailto:denbysahar@internet.co.nz)
- Kay Poynton  
Phone: 972 0725 [poynton@paradise.net.nz](mailto:poynton@paradise.net.nz)  
Convenor of subcommittee: Newsletter
- Gordon Purdie:  
Phone: 479 5548 [purdie@wnmeds.ac.nz](mailto:purdie@wnmeds.ac.nz)
- Athol Swann:  
Phone: 472 8417 [athol.swann@paradise.net.nz](mailto:athol.swann@paradise.net.nz)  
Convenor of subcommittees; Trading, Membership Extension

## Chairman's Report 2002-2003

This has been something of a challenging year with changes in both Trust Board personnel and city council staff associated with Otari-Wilton's Bush stimulating new ideas and suggesting extended horizons for the reserve. It has also been a successful year and no one could doubt that Otari is continuing to improve with Trust members supporting Otari staff.

One substantial setback, however, has been the loss of Jane Wright to the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens, blighted by the death of her husband in tragic circumstances shortly before her departure. The Board developed a grand rapport with Jane during her term, as Assistant Conservator and she will be sadly missed.

We have retained the range of sub-committees established in the first two years of the Trust and they continue to be an efficient means of dealing with the organisation's diverse business.

### **Newsletter (Convenor Maryann Nesbitt)**

The Trust newsletter sets out to keep members in touch with the main happenings at Otari; to highlight opportunities for members to contribute to the work of the Otari Trust; and to publicise seminars and walks where members can share in the knowledge of Otari plant and history experts.

Four newsletters were produced during the year. Regular contributors included Jane Wright from the Otari-Wilton's Bush, the Volunteer Co-ordinators for the Botanic Gardens, Bill Winstanley in his roles as Trust Chairman and Chief Guide, and the Revegetation Project team. Plant drawings from Eleanor Burton have continued to be a lovely addition to each newsletter.

Margaret Crimp and Sue Usher managed the newsletter process from printing to distribution, and were instrumental in widening the pool of contributors for the newsletter.

Many thanks are due to all contributors for the time given to writing articles and in the help given by keeping to the timetable for production and distribution. During the year there was a healthy debate among Trust Board members about the purpose of the newsletter. Options included restricting the newsletter to a single sheet outlining progress or turning it into a more lengthy discussion of issues facing Otari. The new Board will welcome your views as it develops plans for the next set of newsletters.

### **Trading (Convenor: Athol Swann 1.4.02-31.8.02; Sue Usher 1.9.02 onwards)**

As in previous years, trading activities during the year have consisted mainly of card sales. Card sales for the year were \$2,213 with net costs (after adjusting for stock on hand) of \$1,160.

During the year four new cards were selected from photographs in *Nature Guide to the New Zealand Forest* by John Dawson and Rob Lucas and the Trust is grateful to them for allowing the use of their photographs and text. The new cards are Ponga, Kakabeak, Hinu and Parataniwha. There are now 12 different cards which are sold in packets of

four or individually. It will be important in future years to expand the outlets selling the cards and to take advantage of visitors to Otari-Wilton's Bush on the Trust's guided walks and cruise ship tours to increase the sales of our greeting cards.

The tea and cake stall at Open Day turns a significant profit for the Trust and we are grateful to Margaret Chetwin for organising this service.

Planning is proceeding for a saleable souvenir bookmark that will show four photographs of the scenery, plants, and animals in the reserve and detail, on the reverse, such information as how to reach Otari-Wilton's Bush and the range of attractions available there. An application for a grant to cover the production of the bookmark has been made to the Wellington City Council.

### **Land and Boundaries (Convenor Athol Swann)**

The identification of the ownership of the properties fringing the Otari-Wilton's Bush Scenic Reserve is now substantially completed.

There are significant bush-covered areas owned by Wellington City on the eastern side of the upper Kaiwharawhara stream and on the southern boundary adjacent to the cemetery which the Board considers should be zoned Scenic Reserve and added to the Otari-Wilton's Bush management area as soon as practicable. In addition, there are extensive areas on the western hillside beyond the current boundary of Otari-Wilton's Bush and Johnson's Hill Reserves extending up to the ridge line and north to the Skyline Walkway access and Chartwell Drive that we envisage should ultimately be managed as an extension of the Otari-Wilton's Bush management area.

This extension of the Otari-Wilton's Bush management area is important for several reasons. The reserve is essentially a forest island bounded by farming and urban developments; the principles of island biogeography dictate that the greater the area of such an island, the greater will be both the species composition and the stability of its flora and fauna. Over time, the revegetation being done adjacent to the reserve and elsewhere in the Kaiwharawhara Catchment will enhance its importance as the most significant linkage in the Outer Green Belt stretching from the south coast to Spicers. Ensuring a large island of forest is subjected to a heightened regime of control of plant and animal pests will vastly improve it as a Wellington attraction.

### **Education and Research (convenor Bill Winstanley)**

Hosting and guiding continues to be the responsibility of the Wellington City Council but many of our members are involved in both activities. Bill Winstanley is the coordinator for guided walks bookings. Currently, there are 12 trained guides available as required in Otari-Wilton's Bush. The guides deserve praise for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Guided walks are a wonderful opportunity for public education and the measure of their success has been in the uniform praise received from the participating public. On the Trust's initiative, there is a guided afternoon walk on the fourth Sunday of every month. Dr John Dawson has taken responsibility for most of these, usually assisted by Bill Winstanley.

In addition to the Trust walks, there have been a further 28 tours for a variety of groups, the largest having 54 participants. Professional groups guided have included the NZ Farm Forestry Association, Chinese foresters, and Chinese botanists. Educational groups

guided have included students from two universities, a polytechnic, and one high school. One of the guided tours had a national flavour with the launch of the Project Crimson Trails. In addition to the foregoing, a series of guided walks were again offered on the hour during Open Day.

The successful plant identification workshops of previous years have continued. Again, they have been organised by Dr John Dawson who has been assisted by Bill Winstanley. The four workshops were on tree ferns, two sessions on common trees and shrubs, and one on divaricating trees and shrubs. One workshop attracted a participant who travelled all the way from Inglewood to take part.

Following the form of previous years a seminar was held in June, focussing on the education heritage of the reserve. There were six very interesting talks given by a representative from each of the following: Otari School, the School of Biological Sciences (VUW), the WCC apprentice training scheme, the Wellington Tenth Trust, and Barbara Hampton and Barbara Mitcalfe with community education.

A brilliant suggestion from Maryann Nesbitt, implemented by Margaret Crimp, led to the presentation of four well-attended seminars in March: George Gibbs gave an introduction to the native wetas; Barbara Mitcalfe reviewed the biology of glow-worms; Bill Winstanley gave an insight into the biology and ecology of native dragonflies; and Ian St George covered the ever-expanding number of native orchid species now established in New Zealand. All of the seminars were stimulating but attendances of up to 48 at the sessions reinforced the severe limitations of the Information Centre as an education venue. The present and potential use of the reserve by education groups is persuasive that better facilities need to be planned to meet the demonstrated need.

Wendy Barry, World Wildlife teacher at the Treehouse and Jane Wright have proposed the establishment of a "Critter Trail" for the extended education of the many primary school groups that use the reserve as a teaching venue. Bill Winstanley is one of the group of people who have advised on potential ways of introducing children to the animals of the forest, particularly invertebrates.

In terms of research, a joint paper with the Forest Research Institute on kauri regeneration at New Plymouth and Wellington has been accepted for publication. There have also been some interesting observations on two new host trees for puriri moths and the occurrence of the red-crowned parakeet in Otari-Wilton's Bush in April 2003.

### **Promotion and Publicity (convenor Jock Fleming)**

The funding available for the management of Otari-Wilton's Bush is inextricably linked to how important councillors and their advisers view the reserve. In turn, that is a reflection of the views of the general public.

Although the management plan for the reserve refers to the potential for the promotion of Otari as a stand-alone attraction and its further potential to attain a higher profile as a nationally significant native botanic garden, little or nothing has been attempted to implement such promotion.

The critical funding base for the reserve persuaded the Board to initiate attempts to lift the profile. Several early meetings between representatives of the Board and council staff made significant progress in defining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (a SWOT analysis) of the reserve but further progress was hindered by the lack of a staff member with suitable skills to evolve a promotion and marketing plan. Such a

person has since been appointed and it is hoped that some further progress can occur very soon.

An outcome of the initial discussions was the inclusion of questions about the reserve in telephone surveys conducted on behalf of the council. Those surveys gave clear evidence that, even within Wellington, the reserve is poorly known and it did not even feature in the list of attractions that respondents would advise visitors to see. Council staff now agree that lifting the profile is something that needs to be addressed. Despite its low profile, it is interesting to note that the reserve attracts at least 100,000 visitors a year, a record well beyond the visitor numbers at the Karori Sanctuary, which did feature as a recommended destination in the telephone survey.

The Board took the initiative of inviting Tim Cossar, Chief Executive of Positively Wellington Tourism, to tour the reserve and subsequently promotional footage of the reserve was filmed. The Board is attempting to have tourism operators exposed to the reserve's attractions also.

Publicity is dependant on opportunity and persistence. The Trust relies on encouraging good relationships with the media, DOC, Ministry for the Environment, Greater Wellington Regional Council, WCC, and a variety of groups that can assist in our projects. Our newsletter is widely distributed and is the basic organ for the dissemination of information.

We have been fortunate within this term of the Board that a number of newsworthy events have occurred and the reserve has featured regularly in newspapers, particularly community newspapers in Wellington. The chairman has been interviewed about events in the reserve several times on national radio and some of our activities have been reported in other city newspapers, for example the NZ Herald and the Nelson Evening Mail. The council's External Communications Officer, Lyn Murphy, has done an excellent job of seeing that good news stories from Otari are directed to suitable outlets.

### **Improvements Projects (convenor Athol Swann)**

The long-awaited viewing platform at the waterfall was completed in February and there have been many complimentary comments from the public about this new facility.

The viewing platform was made possible by generous grants from the Community Trust of Wellington and the Ron Greenwood Environmental Trust. Those funds enabled the Trust to recruit the services of a master builder to construct the viewing platform and assisted the purchase of the materials for fencing and surfacing the ramp to the platform. The associated works were achieved by a small team of Trust members with the help of Otari staff.

The viewing platform was gifted to the Mayor at a ceremony in February and the structure formally opened by the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Marian Hobbs, MP. It is hoped to have a commemorative plaque installed soon together with interpretive material about the glow-worms, *Parataniwha*, and the Giant Dragonfly colony.

### **Revegetation Project (convenor Jock Fleming)**

The major funding for this project is derived under the Greater Wellington Regional Council's "Care" programme. GWRC also fund the clearance of pest plants. A higher

than expected volume of pest plants in the planting area has led to a considerable extension of the funds allocated to the reserve.

The Board itself was successful in obtaining an Environmental Grant of \$6000 from the Wellington City Council and those funds, together with a supplement from the Trust Board, enabled the Trust to employ Jonathan Kennett and Bronwen Wall, as project managers for the revegetation work.

Trust personnel have played the major role in recruiting volunteers to assist in all aspects of the project from seed collection and propagation, to planting and post-planting care. Otari staff have excelled themselves in supporting all of these stages. Jock Fleming has had a major role in providing the secretarial role for the joint GWRC/WCC/Trust coordinating committee.

The target for last winter's planting season was 4000 plants in the ground and the target was realised despite indifferent weather on most planting days. Not one planting day was cancelled, despite the weather.

A different approach was taken to planting this season, with fertiliser being applied to most plants as they went into the ground and weed suppression measures taken either with squares of carpet or the application of mulch around the base of each plant. This approach, together with the post-planting care supervised by the project managers, resulted in a better success rate than the previous year. The absence of the very damaging frosts of the previous winter was also a blessing.

The revegetation adjacent to Otari has generated an enormous amount of interest and support from wide sections of the community. The organisations that directed volunteers to the project were: WWF; Duke of Edinburgh Award; Volunteer Wellington; and the Conservation Corps. A city business provided 40 volunteers one day for tree planting as a team building exercise. Visiting American students also planted trees and a group of Karori runners planted one area as a memorial to a fellow runner.

The city celebrated Arbor Day at the revegetation site with the Mayor, Kerry Prendergast, planting the first native tree of our planting season. About 200 people took part including staff from city and regional councils, councillors and members of the Trust Board. It was an enjoyable celebration.

### **Acknowledgments**

I should like to thank all Trust Board members for their contributions over the year, particularly Sue Usher and Maryann Nesbitt who have decided not to stand for election this year. Their efforts are appreciated.

I should also like to extend the thanks of the Trust Board to all of those volunteers who have given freely of their time and effort to make Otari-Wilton's Bush a better place. Those thanks need to be further extended to the city council and regional council personnel who have played their parts to the same aim.

Finally, I should like to thank all Trust members for their continued support. Be aware that your numbers are important: what the Trust lacks in power can be made up for in the influence that you can individually exert.

*Bill Winstanley,*

*Chairman, Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust Board*

## Otari-Wilton's Bush Staff Report

Thankfully we are now getting some rain after another long dry summer, fingers crossed that the winter will replenish this much needed resource.

In March the collections committee and staff met and approved the creation of a Canterbury border to replace the old Hebe collection border. A concept plan was drawn up, some earth works started, a seat has been donated and installed and plants have been ordered. It is anticipated the area will be ready to plant in spring.

The Wilton walkway and circular track upgrade has started and all going well this project should be completed early June. The Wilton walkway will open up three new areas and experiences with a boardwalk and path going through the Fernery, Dracophyllum garden and into the original bush where a viewing platform will be sited. All of this will be wheelchair accessible.

A small (1500m<sup>2</sup>) yet botanically important area of land was added to Otari in April. Previously it was part of the Wilton house grounds and it has on it some large tawa, totara, and several rare *Streblus banksii*. This is great for Otari as if it had remained in private ownership it could have eventually been developed.

Revegetation in the Kaiwharawhara Valley is underway with 8000 plants to go in this winter. A great effort has gone in from the Tuesday and Thursday morning volunteers both working in the nursery potting on plants and also planting down in the valley. Many thanks to all involved. We would especially like to thank Margaret Chetwin for all your efforts and enthusiasm (and scones and cakes). You will be missed and we wish you well on your shift to the Mainland.

In the next couple of months staff will be busy planting in their collections, emptying out a crowded nursery and planning for our plant sale, which is on Sunday 14 September.

Bye for now

*Tim, Dave, Eleanor, Mick.*

*Otari-Wilton's Bush staff*

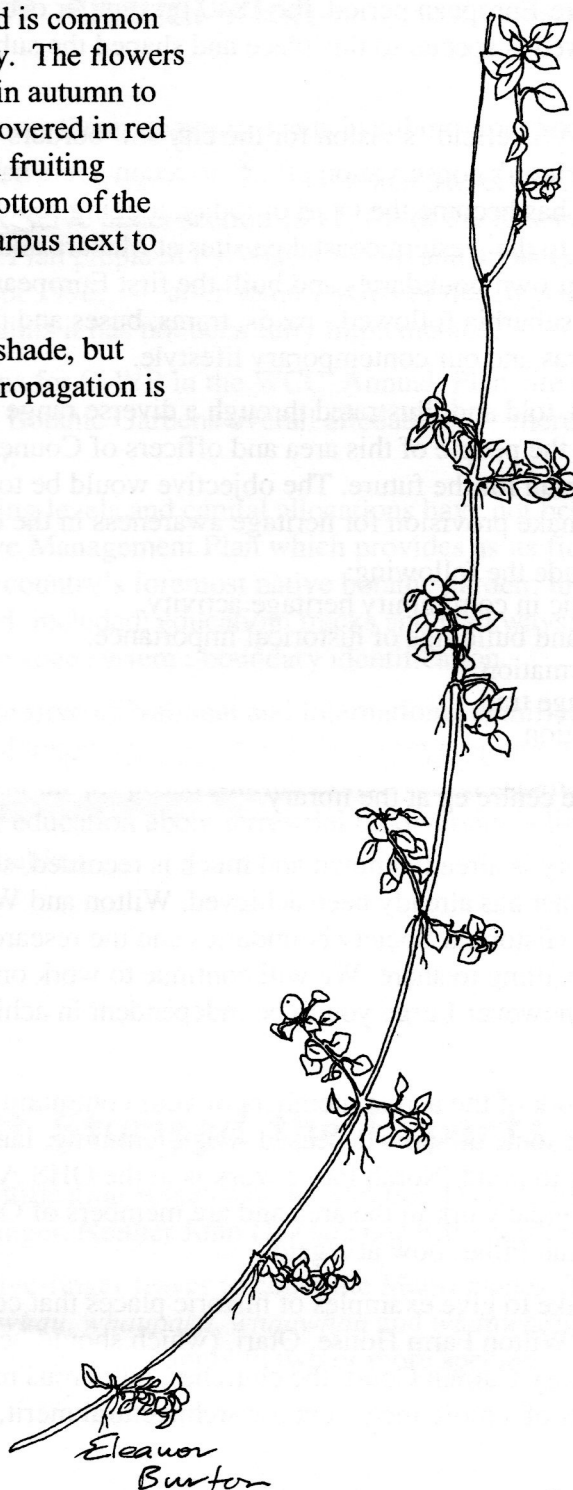
## Titbits.....

- Monteith's Wild Food Challenge is in progress. A number of the entrants feature Kawakawa pesto – not yet available in delicatessens. Who can come up with the recipe, as Kawakawa is like a weed in Wellington
- June is Wellington Heritage month. The theme this year is Architectural Heritage. Remember Job Wilton's house is still looking over the bush he zealously guarded.

## *Nertera depressa*

This is a small creeping plant which forms mats of tiny leaves. It is often found growing on streamsides and other damp places, and is common throughout the country. The flowers are insignificant, but in autumn to winter the plant gets covered in red berries. It can be seen fruiting magnificently at the bottom of the steps under the *Halocarpus* next to the goldfish pond.

It will grow in sun or shade, but prefers a moist site. Propagation is easiest by division.



## Community Planning Pilot for Wadestown/Wilton

From the February Submission of the Onslow Historical Society Inc. *Community Needs*.

The areas we know as the suburbs of Wadestown and Wilton are rich in history. The natural landscape, the pre-European period, the 1840 first settler occupation and the development that followed is special to this place and shaped the suburbs as we know them today.

The green belt that was Wakefield's vision for the city still borders the upper hills on the Tinakori heights. Job Wilton's conservation efforts to retain some native bush as he cleared land for pasture has become the Otari of today, logging routes followed Maori tracks from the harbour to the western coastal pa sites at Makara and Ohariu, farmers and sawyers established their own boundaries and built the first European houses; colonisation began and suburbia followed - roads, trams, buses and the trappings of Victorian, Edwardian eras and our contemporary lifestyle.

All this can be recorded, told and illustrated through a diverse range of future initiatives. My recommendation to the people of this area and officers of Council is to develop a heritage inventory and plan for the future. The objective would be to celebrate the past as the future unfolds and make provision for heritage awareness in the community.

The project should include the following:

- Engage the public in community heritage activity.
- Research areas and buildings of historical importance.
- Record the information.
- Develop a heritage trail.
- Publish information.
- Develop educational opportunities and partnerships with the schools.
- Create a heritage centre eg at the library

A great deal of the history is already known and much is recorded, so this new project would be building on what has already been achieved. Wilton and Wadestown are included in the Onslow Historical Society boundaries and the research information we have we are more than willing to share. We will continue to work on this local history as long as there is a need, however I urge you to be independent in achieving your own heritage objectives.

We acknowledge the work of the active members of your community. Some quite elderly people are involved and some are now deceased - Peg Flemming, Ian McEwen and Norah Parr are three that come to mind. Norah Parr's work is in the OHS Archives. Anne and John Moffatt are doing great work in the area and are members of OHS as is former Wadestown resident - Stan Pillar, now at Ngaio.

In conclusion I would like to give examples of historic places that come to mind as a starter for future work- Wilton Farm House, Otari, (which should be noted as a heritage park) Izard Park, Salisbury Garden Court, the churches, numerous residential buildings of historic value and others of a more recent era for architectural merit, Fort Buckley and heritage trees.

Publications of the OHS Society are indicative of excellent research work to date and a forthcoming manuscript on the Izards of Wellington will provide information about the origins of Izard Park.

*Judy Siers, President, Onslow Historical Society.*

## Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust Submission on WCC 2003/4 Draft Annual Plan

The following summarises the main points made in submission dated 23 May 2003:-

Otari-Wilton's Bush Native Botanic Garden and Forest Reserve (O-WB) , being classified as a Scenic Reserve under section 19 (1) (b) of the Reserves Act 1977, has an excellent Management Plan prepared by WCC in 1996 and approved by The Minister of Conservation on 23 Sept 1996. -- after some 7 years of the 10 years this plan covers, due to financial constraints it has not been fully implemented.

The financial allocations for O-WB in the WCC Annual Plan are not transparent as they are grouped within the Botanic Gardens overall allocations. – there should be a separate budget covering O-WB.

It is apparent that staffing levels and capital allocations have not been adequate to fully implement the operative Management Plan which provides as its first objective - to maintain O-WB as the country's foremost native botanic garden. In this regard, specific deficiencies highlighted included; education; tracks and walkways; pollution of streams from stormwater and sewage system ; boundary identification.

Although O-WB is a Reserve of National and International significance, the WCC Plan does not list it as a Wellington attraction for their tourist promotion. ( as is indicated for the Karori Sanctuary and the proposed Marine Conservation Centre, whereas the potential for O-WB for education about terrestrial biodiversity is limited only by the facilities currently available.)

*Athol Swann*

## The One that Stumped the Experts

At one of the plant identification sessions on Restoration Day, someone asked what Maori called the five-finger. Neither John Dawson nor Bill Winstanley knew.

You need almost two five-finger leaves to count the Maori names. They are: *houhou*, *puahou*, *tauparapara*, *whau*, *whaupaku*, *whauwhau* and *whauwhaupaku*. As with many Maori names, some of these names apply to two or more species.

*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 .....

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 Payment:** (please enclose your cheque) \$

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:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work parties | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend hosting at Otari Information Centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising |  |

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