

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## News and Views September, 2005

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

For all walks meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

For information re walks and seminars contact the Treehouse on (04) 499 1400

First Saturday of each month	<b>Plant care work party.</b> Be at the information centre at 9am. <i>Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett, ph 472 5891</i>
Thursday September 22 Saturday September 24	<b>Clean-up New Zealand week.</b> Volunteers needed for 2 projects.
<b>Native Week October 3-8</b>	Unless specified, all the following Native week events are held at, or start from the Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. Details in newsletter.
Monday October 3	<b>A naughty native bird show.</b> 1pm <b>Completing the loop talk - from poop to zoop.</b> 1.30pm <b>Otari garden and forest guided walks.</b> 2pm <b>Rescue plans for native plants talk - Otari's role.</b> 7pm
Tuesday October 4	<b>Otari garden and forest guided walks.</b> 2pm <b>Otari glow-worms guided tour.</b> 8pm
Wednesday October 5	<b>Otari garden and forest guided walks.</b> 2pm <b>The art of plant photography.</b> 7pm
Thursday October 6	<b>Painting in the Garden.</b> Cockayne Lawn. 10am-3pm <b>Otari garden and forest guided walks.</b> 2pm
Friday October 7	<b>Painting in the Garden.</b> Cockayne Lawn. 10am-3pm <b>Native plants for challenging places.</b> 7pm
Saturday, October 8	<b>Open Day and Plant Sale</b>
Sunday, October 16, 2pm	<b>Get to know the native forest plants. An identification workshop followed by a walk around the deck and along the tree top walkway.</b> (Note this is the third Sunday of the month). <i>Leader: Dr John Dawson</i>
Saturday, November 27, 2pm	<b>From the Wild Garden down to the Waterfall, where we will see many interesting plants, then up to the Bowling Club to get a view of the Wilton Homestead.</b> <i>Leader: Dr John Dawson</i>
Sunday, December 18, 2pm	<b>A trek to Cockayne's Kauri Forest then down to the Bledisloe Gorge and the many pukateas and gully tree ferns at the head of the valley.</b> (Note this is the third Sunday of the month), <i>Leader: Dr. John Dawson</i>

## Report from the Chairman

The highlight news since our last newsletter has been the achievement of a Wellington Region Conservation Award for our Kaiwharawhara Stream Revegetation project. Invitations were issued by the Minister for the Environment for our Trust and other Individuals/Groups to be represented at the annual award ceremony held in the Parliamentary Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> August. After the impressive opening ceremony, the awards were announced and those representing the selected six recipients were invited to receive them. Our group including Jock Fleming, Jonathan Kennett and myself, received, on behalf of our Trust, an attractive plaque and certificate. Jock spoke briefly acknowledging the efforts of all volunteers involved as well as the support provided by Greater Wellington and Wellington City Councils. The plaque specifically indicates that the award was granted - *In recognition of an outstanding contribution made to conservation by Otari Wilton's Bush Trust for long-term commitment to the revegetation of Kaiwharawhara Stream and to raising conservation awareness.*

Jock, who has been Trustee co-ordinator, Jonathan (and Bronwen) who have marshalled and guided the volunteers over many Saturday mornings for the past four years, can be justly proud of this achievement – On behalf of the Trust I thank all who have participated.

*(The Plaque (replica) and Certificate have been framed and are displayed on the wall at the Information Centre.)*

Due largely to his success as an author, Dr John Dawson has regretfully decided that his commitments in this field prevent him from continuing as a Board Trustee but he is happy to continue in a consulting role as well as involvement in guiding, as time permits. Although we are sorry to lose his wise counsel at our board meetings, those of us who have acquired his earlier publications will appreciate that we are all likely to gain from the transfer of his botanical knowledge into permanent record. Thank you John for the valuable assistance you have willingly provided to the Trust.

The removal of the pine trees in the Troup picnic area has been a great achievement and currently planning for the improvements in the area is underway and will include completion of the circular walkway with a track much more user-friendly by elimination of the steep steps.

You will see from the programme listed in this newsletter, that there is an interesting period of activity ahead of us for the next two months. I urge you all to participate.

*Athol Swann*

# Manager's Otari Report

Life in and around the Troup picnic area is returning to normal after the removal of the pines. It is fair to say that there have been a number of comments indicating disappointment at the removal of the pines; however the hazard they presented and impacts on the bush were significant and while restoration will take some time their removal was prudent. The lawn has been temporarily resown for the summer, the bridge has now been repaired and is open for use and the stumps on the flat are about to be ground out.

Drakeford - Williams Landscape Architects have been commissioned to prepare drawings for an upgrade to the Troup Picnic area and for the upgrading of the last part of the circular walk between the collections and picnic areas. We are expecting to have the design process completed by the end of December with construction of the circular walk beginning early in the New Year and the Troup Picnic area in autumn.

The new mapboards have gone up and look a treat. There has been a good deal of positive comment about them. New pamphlet holders are shortly to be placed on them and the style of the design is likely to be a template for other mapboards around the city.

The meeting room is now finished and with the poles removed and the new window installed will be a very nice space for small meetings and will be much more usable for larger meetings using the two rooms.

We are in the process of appointing a new Curator/Manager as this goes to print. James Jones and Leanne Killalea, along with the staff, have kept Otari ticking over nicely. The propagation house is now complete so Robyn has been able to start the propagation of the Ruth and Arnold Dench alpine collection. The old shade house has been upgraded and now holds a duplicate of the Percy's Reserve Druce collection. It is good to see that this has happened as there has been some concern over the future of the Druce Collection.

Preparations are well under way for Spring Festival including Native Week and Otari Open Day. There will be increased activity at Otari this year with more targeted walks and evening talks. Of particular interest will be an address by John Sawyer from DoC in the evening of Monday 3 October. He is discussing the role of Otari in rescuing native plants – this is of particular interest as we look to increasing Otari's role with plant restoration programmes.

Our thanks go out again to the hosts and volunteers for their work during the week and weekends. A lot has been achieved over the winter this year and the Project Kaiwharawhara plantings in particular are a very good example of what can be achieved. The signs are also very popular!

David Sole

Manager Wellington Botanic Gardens

# Kaiwharawhara Stream Revegetation Project

The group overseeing this project have meetings about every 4 to 6 weeks. We decided to ask members of the Wellington Conservancy to come up and see what we have done, and make objective comment on the project so far. This was considered to be helpful because of their professional experience and our intention to extend planting and plant-care for some years.

Two staff members from Doc's biodiversity programme -- Peter Simpson and Rob Stone kindly came up to Otari on Friday the 2nd of September.

Jonathan and Bronwen initially provided an over-view of the five years planting, plant-care and monitoring by explaining a series of slides.

Following this we went down to the planting zones. where they were able to make a number of positive comments. They are arranging for us to have samples of plant guards that they have successfully used to prevent rabbits attacking young plants.

One of their interesting comments was that we at Otari had a huge advantage, because many of our volunteers were returning to plant-care work-parties and were building up a knowledge of plants and their need for attention after the planting.

The good news is that both GWRC and WCC are increasing their involvement in the restoration of the whole of the Kaiwharawhara catchment area. This is important because the Kaiwharawhara is the last of Wellington's suburban streams flowing into the harbour. For this reason it has special value.

JF

## Words from the Valley

Congratulations! Tree potters, planters and weeders recently completed the fifth and final year of tree planting in the valley. Over 25,000 trees have been grown in the nursery, planted in the valley and cared for as they grow. Volunteers celebrated the occasion with a special slide show and celebrity quiz. Four incredibly knowledgeable contestants battled it out in front of an often challenging crowd. Athol Swan represented the Trust and came first equal. The 2004 champion and tree planting supervisor Mick Parsons gave Athol a good run for his money and equalled his score. Otari apprentice Alena showed that youth is no barrier and scored the same as Mick. John Holmes from Greater Wellington got off to a slow start but had a strong finish, gaining just as many points as Alena. In summary, it was a dead heat! Printed on page 5 are half the quiz questions. The answers will be printed in the next newsletter.

Plant care work parties will be continuing on the first Saturday of every month. Please meet at the Otari information centre at 9am. The work is varied and lasts for two hours.

Jonathan

**What Native Plant is That?** There are still some places available in this course taken by John Dawson. Includes Saturday trips to Kaitoke Regional Park, Waikanae Forest Reserves, Otari—Wiltons Bush Native Botanic Garden and an identification morning at Otari. Wednesdays 7-9pm and various Saturdays, starts 19 October. \$50. Phone Onslow college 477 1118 for further information.

## 2005 Quiz Questions

- Q1:** The seeds of which common revegetation species can be roasted and ground to make coffee?
- Q2:** What is “dendrochronology”?
- Q3:** According to our research, what has been the fastest growing native tree in Kaiwharawhara valley?
- Q4:** How could a blind botanist tell the difference between manuka and kanuka?
- Q5:** What is the key ingredient in Treepel, the repellent painted on native seedlings to deter rabbits?
- Q6:** Who is buried at Otari Wilton’s Bush?
- Q7:** Name a critically endangered native bird that cannot be saved by transporting it to a pest-free offshore island?
- Q8:** How do trees renew our air supply?
- Q9:** What was Kaiwharawhara Stream [where it flows through Otari] originally called?
- Q10:** If you were starving down in Otari Wilton’s Bush and could only eat one plant, what plant would you choose?
- Q11:** There are 50,000 of this native New Zealand creature on Stephen’s Island in the Marlborough Sounds. Name the creature and list three of its incredible features.
- Q12:** *The Nature of Plants* is a fascinating book written by Trust member John Dawson. In it is described the essential difference between vines and epiphytes. What is that difference?

## The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

The Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust is a member and supporter of this recently established group. Its purpose is to ensure that *no indigenous plant species will become extinct nor be placed at risk as a result of human action or indifference*.

A member of the Trust’s Board, during a visit to Christchurch, attended the first day of the ‘Network’s Conference’. The programme focused on ‘Restoring our threatened plant life -- Empowering our community’. The discussions were very relevant to one of the principle concerns at Otari - the nurturing and preservation of rare, threatened and endangered native plant species, and the recording of scientific monitoring of their growth, propagation and survival.

It will be a while before the proceedings of this conference will be published.

Mike Oates, the founding Chairperson has resigned with accolades for his guidance and initiatives during the network’s inaugural period, focusing on its future role and links with global and local conservation groups and their efforts to promote the network’s purpose.

Professor Ian Spellerberg replaces Mike Oates. Ian Spellerberg founded the Isaac Centre for Conservation at Lincoln University. The Centre is an advocate for nature conservation, research and education. Professor Spellerberg states “ Strong advocates are needed for plant conservation in New Zealand”. He says this because in his experience, there are many parts of New Zealand where native plants have a low profile or bad press and there appears to be unforgivable damage and losses to, our natural heritage.

The 'network' has a website: [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)

J.F.

## **WCC's Environmental Reference Group to be reactivated.**

This group has been dormant for the last year, and has come together with Cr. Celia Wade-Brown as chairperson. Maggy Wassilief, who is a member of the Otari Trust Board, has resigned from the group.

The Environmental Reference Group is to be a primary forum for advice on issues about the natural environment. It will not be considered as the sole representative of the community's view on natural environment issues, but should provide a balanced commentary on policy, planning, and asset management, and topical issues.

It is understood that Cr. Celia Wade-Brown expects that community groups, such as our own, will submit environmental issues of concern to us, to the 'Reference Group' for them to consider.

J.F.

## **Regional Cycling Maps**

The Greater Wellington Council have recently published three exceptionally well illustrated cycling / running / walking maps. They are all pocket size and two sided and show cycle paths and tracks that can be shared. They are: (1) *Wellington City and the Central Business District*. (2) *Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Wairarapa*. (3) *Kapiti and Porirua*.

There is incredibly good detail in all of these maps, and they illustrate important links.

In addition they have published a brochure entitled '*Hutt River Trail*' for walking, running and cycling. It includes a description of the route, distances and walking times between Petone's Hikoikoi Park and Birchville, dividing the total 29km into seven sections. The '*Hutt River Trail*' will eventually run as far as the Te Marua area of the Kaitoke Park and link with the Rimutuka Rail Trail.

These Publications will be a great boost to all walkers, joggers and cyclists revealing new tracks and pathways and their important links,

Maps can be obtained from GWRC offices, or [cycling@gw.govt.nz](mailto:cycling@gw.govt.nz) / [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)

Thanks to Ross Jackson for alerting us to their availability.

JF

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed for help on **Open Day, Saturday, 8 October**. We need **help at the plant sale**, both on the tills and with packing plants. Help is also needed at the **Cake stall**. This is one of our great fundraisers but it can only be successful if you can help by bringing along cakes, muffins, loaves, biscuits, etc. for willing helpers to sell.

If you can help in any of these ways for an hour or so please contact

Wilbur and Liz Dovey, 4991044.

Email; [cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz)

# Spring Festival 2005

## MONDAY 3 OCTOBER

### **A naughty native bird show**

Visit Otari-Wilton's Bush for an interactive experience with Wellington Zoo's kaka Harold and the Zoo's Animal Conditioner, Gerry Whitehouse-Tedd. Hear the stories of Harold's plight this Spring Festival and find out why this kaka has a twisted beak!

Otari-Wilton's Bush. 1pm. 20 minutes  
Cost: koha/donation for the Zoo appreciated

### **Completing the loop talk - from poop to zoop**

For many years, poo from the animals at Wellington Zoo was viewed as waste and disposed of accordingly. These days the Zoo is committed to recycling its animal waste. Find out how they turn it into compost with Wellington Zoo horticulturalist Tony Kelly.

Otari-Wilton's Bush. 1.30pm. 20 minutes  
Cost: koha/donation for the Zoo appreciated

### **Otari garden and forest guided walks**

Two walks are available. The first is an easy walk from the Wild Garden to the Lookout. The second includes the Nature Trail and is a bit more strenuous with steps in places.

Otari-Wilton's Bush  
Meet: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 2pm  
Duration: Lookout walk, one hour. Nature Trail walk, 90 minutes  
Cost: \$3

### **Rescue plans for native plants talk - Otari's role**

Plant ecologist John Sawyer will explain and discuss the significance of the native plant species recovery strategies at Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Otari-Wilton's Bush  
Venue: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 7pm  
Cost: koha/donation

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## TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER

### **Otari garden and forest guided walks**

Two walks are available. The first is an easy walk from the Wild Garden to the Lookout. The second includes the Nature Trail and is a bit more strenuous with steps in places.

Otari-Wilton's Bush  
Meet: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 2pm  
Duration: Lookout walk, one hour. Nature Trail walk, 90 minutes. .  
Cost: \$3

### **Otari glow-worms guided tour**

Take a guided evening walk to see these luminous creatures of the night. Please wear warm clothes, sturdy shoes or boots and bring a torch.

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Meet: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 8pm

Cost: \$3

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## **WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER**

### **Otari garden and forest guided walks**

Two walks are available. The first is an easy walk from the Wild Garden to the Lookout. The second includes the Nature Trail and is a bit more strenuous with steps in places.

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Meet: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 2pm

Duration: Lookout walk, one hour. Nature Trail walk, 90 minutes.

Cost: \$3

### **The art of plant photography**

Author and photographer Rob Lucas shows you the art of taking the perfect plant picture. Rob is noted for his striking and attractive photos of native plants.

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Venue: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 7pm

Cost: koha/donation

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## **THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER**

### **Painting in the Garden**

Come and meet the botanical illustrator Sue Wickison. Trained at Kew Gardens and with international experience, she will be happy to show you her technique and share ideas as she paints. Beautiful limited edition prints and cards will also be available for sale.

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Venue: Cockayne Lawn. 10am-3pm

Cost: free

### **Otari garden and forest guided walks**

Two walks are available. The first is an easy walk from the Wild Garden to the Lookout. The second includes the Nature Trail and is a bit more strenuous with steps in places.

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Meet: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 2pm

Duration: Lookout walk, one hour. Nature Trail walk, 90 minutes.

Cost: \$3

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## **FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER**

### **Native plants for challenging places**

Landscape architect Julia Williams shows you how to work native plant magic on even the toughest of terrains. Julia has a special interest in the use of native plants in garden design.

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Venue: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 7pm

Cost: koha/donation

### **Painting in the Garden**

Come and meet the botanical illustrator Sue Wickison. Trained at Kew Gardens and with international experience, she will be happy to show you her technique and share ideas as she paints. Beautiful limited edition prints and cards will also be available for sale.

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Venue: Cockayne Lawn. 10am - 3pm

Cost: free

### **Otari garden and forest guided walks**

Two walks are available. The first is an easy walk from the Wild Garden to the Lookout. The second includes the Nature Trail and is a bit more strenuous with steps in places.

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Meet: Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane. 2pm

Duration: Lookout walk, one hour. Nature Trail walk, 90 minutes.

Cost: \$3

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## **SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER**

### **Otari open day and plant sale**

Celebrate spring at the annual open day and plant sale. Take a guided walk through Wellington's oldest native forest or buy some beautiful native plants to start your own. Stalls, displays, onsite artists, native plant books and more.

Plant sale begins at 9:30am. Guided tours leave from the Information Centre at 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm.

Otari-Wilton's Bush. 9.30am - 2pm

Volunteers are also needed for *Cleanup NSZ Week*. We are planning two projects. On Thursday 22 September, meet at the Information Centre at 9am to clean up the roadside boundaries. On Saturday 24 September, meet at the Information Centre at 9am to clean up the Kaiwharawhara Stream. Bags and gloves will be provided. If you can help please contact Jock Fleming, 475 7396, or [jockflemimg@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jockflemimg@paradise.net.nz)



## *Disphyma australe*

Horokaka, Native Ice Plant

This is a mat forming succulent plant, common on coastal rocks, cliffs and dunes throughout the country and offshore islands, though displaced in many places by the larger and more vigorous exotic *Carpobrotus*. The flowers are white to pink, from spring to summer. Seed capsules open only when wet, ensuring optimum conditions for germination. *Disphyma australe* is also found in Australia and some Pacific islands.

Leaves of horokaka were pickled and eaten by European settlers, though possibly not by Maori. The fruits are also edible, though they have not much flavour. Maori squeezed juice from the leaves to use as a treatment for boils.



**Office of Hon Chris Carter**  
**MP for Te Atatu**  
Minister of Conservation  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister for Building Issues  
Minister for Ethnic Affairs

18 AUG 2005

Members of the Otari Wilton's Bush Trust  
c/- Jock Fleming  
149 Wilton Road  
Wilton  
WELLINGTON

Dear Members

I am writing to congratulate the Trust on recently receiving a conservation award for habitat restoration.

The Trust has made an outstanding long-term commitment to the restoration of the Kaiwharawhara Stream since it was established in 2000. I understand that more than 500 people have been involved on a voluntary basis to work on this streamside re-vegetation project.

Around 20,000 native plants have been established as the result of a carefully structured project and I know that those involved must feel very satisfied with the results.

The award was richly deserved and I am very appreciative of the tremendous contribution you are making to the conservation of a very special area in Wellington. Keep up the good work.

Kind regards

**Hon Chris Carter MP**  
**Minister of Conservation**

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## Membership Application Form

Our membership year is from 1 April to 31 March. New members joining after 1 January 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>	Corporate	\$30	
	Double/Family	\$15	
	Individual	\$10	
	Student/Unwaged	\$5	
<b>Donation:</b>		\$	
<b>Total Payment:</b>	<b>(please enclose your cheque)</b>		\$

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.