

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views November, 2006

Check the web site to keep up-to-date with events: 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

<p>The first Saturday of each month. 9am</p>	<p>Plant Care Work Party. 2 December. Be at the information centre at 9am. <i>Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett, ph 472 5891</i></p>
<p>Otari-Wilton's Bush Walks for Summer</p>	
<p>Sunday 26 November. 2pm</p>	<p>Otari-Wilton's Bush guided walk - the southern tracks This substantial walk from the Information Centre along the Kaiwharawhara valley and into the Karori Cemetery is a pilgrimage to the grave of Otari Wilton's Bush first caretaker Andy McKay. Returning via the Blue Trail. Meet at the Information Centre at 2pm. See page 9. Cost: \$3 (free to Trust members).</p>
<p>Sunday 17 December 2pm</p>	<p>Otari-Wilton's Bush guided walk – kauri and pukatea Take time out from the Christmas rush and enjoy this long 2 ½ hours walk, trekking to Cockayne's kauri "forest" and down to the Bledisloe Gorge with its many pukatea and tree ferns. Original forest remnants and deep cut gorges make this a special journey. Meet at the Waharoa archway, near Wilton Road car park at 2pm. <i>Leader:</i> Cost: \$3 (free to Trust members).</p>
<p>Sunday 21 January 2pm.</p>	<p>Otari-Wilton's Bush guided walk – rare and unusual natives This 1 ½ hour easy walk from the Wild Garden via the deck and Treetop Walkway to the lookout is a good way to check out some rare and unusual native plants. Meet at the Waharoa archway, near Wilton Road car park at 2pm. Cost: \$3 (free to Trust members).</p>
<p>Sunday 25 February, 10am</p>	<p>Otari-Wilton's Bush - wilderness walk Walk through the Khandallah Reserve to the TV tower and an area of strange windshrub vegetation on an energetic walk that will finish mid afternoon. Meet at the Khandallah Swimming pool carpark, Khandallah, at 10am. Please bring your own lunch. Cost: \$3 (free to Trust members).</p>



Report from the Chairman

The main event since last newsletter was the Open Day held on Saturday 23 September, in conjunction with the plant sale at the beginning of the Botanic Gardens Spring Festival Week. We were favoured with fine weather and, with gross revenues from the supporting activities organized by Trust volunteers exceeding \$2000, this can be regarded as the most successful Open Day for the Trust. The introduction of barbeque food and Otari100 t-shirts for sale at the till line up, contributed significantly to this achievement. Taking into account offsetting costs, our net gain from the event amounted to some \$1500 compared to \$820 the previous year. Thanks to all who contributed to making this a profitable and enjoyable event.

The winners of the raffle prizes were:

Sally Bowman - a Book, 'The Nature of Plants' (John Dawson & Rob Lucas)

Mick Parsons - a Choice of 5 native plants

Ken Findlay - a Book 'Plant Me Instead' (Dept of Conservation)

You should note in your diaries that next year the Open Day will be held on Sunday, 12th August 2007 at the end of Conservation Week.

The Otari-Wilton's Bush Draft Management Plan for the next 10 years was issued early November and it is pleasing to find included many of the Trust Board's suggestions contributed at various forums and workshops held during the year. This Draft Plan is open for Submissions until Friday, 26 January 2007, when these will be considered by Council in the completion of their final Plan, which requires approval of the Minister of Conservation. The Board will be completing a submission for inclusion of several possible development options which we believe are not adequately provided for in the Draft. These include; more positive implementation of education centre/visitor facility options, review of possible areas available for collections, possible boundary extensions arising from the recent Council land purchase up to the Skyline Track, provision of a main southern entrance with signage and parking bordering Ian Galloway Park, other visitor parking options and security, and provision for picnic facilities upstream from the Troup picnic area. If, after having read the Draft Plan, and remembering the plan covers the period up to year 2016, members believe other substantive items should be included in our submission, please do not hesitate to contact me or another Board trustee. We are also available to help, should you wish to make your own separate submission on these items .

The new series of Cards for sale at \$2 ea. are proving very popular, and I would like to remind you that these are available from the hosts at the Information Centre, on Saturdays and Sundays, or by telephoning either myself (472 8417) or Margaret Crimp (475 3263).

I report two changes to our Board of Trustees:

- Eleanor Dashfield has resigned due to pressure of other commitments.
- We are pleased to welcome Phil Parnell who has agreed to be seconded. Phil has been an active volunteer at the nursery and with the revegetation group, and has helped to establish the Otari100 website.

Finally, with Christmas and the New Year advancing quickly, I would like to thank all volunteers and members for your supporting efforts during the year, and also to wish you all a ‘Merry Christmas and Happy New Year’

Athol Swann

Contacts:

The Trust Board: Postal Address: 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, Wellington.

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| 🕒 Deputy Chair: Jock Fleming, | Phone: 475 7396 | jockfleming@paradise.net.nz |
| 🕒 Secretary: Margaret Crimp: | Phone: 475 3263 | m.crimp@xtra.co.nz |
| 🕒 Treasurer: Johanne McComish | Phone: 476 2925, 027 2278357 | mccomish@paradise.net.nz |

The trustees welcome individual communications from members on any matters relating to Otari-Wilton’s Bush Reserve or the Trust, particularly from those who would like to assist and participate in our activities.

Newsletter: Vera Burton. Phone 9388207 Email davee@paradise.net.nz

Don’t forget to check out the centenary website to celebrate the **100th birthday of Otari Wilton's Bush** as a Reserve.

www.otari100.org.nz



Manager's Otari Report

Hi everybody

As I write the wind is howling and rain is battering at the windows. I have just returned from Singapore, and had a great walk in the Botanic Gardens there, where it was lovely and warm. Summer can't come soon enough!

Hopefully the summer sun will be out over the Christmas period when we hope the Troup Picnic Lawn will be in full use. This area has been out of action for a long while now and it will be great to have it back. The lawn has just received its first cut and all things going well it will be able to be used in the first week of December.

As the Troup picnic redevelopment begins to wrap up we have been working on the Alpine garden next to the car park. Since the alpine garden was built in 1999 it has become apparent that the combination of large rocks and a water feature make a tempting landscape for the public, especially children, to climb onto. Regular foot traffic through this garden has resulted in a number of plant deaths (into the hundreds) and there is also a health and safety concern when children climb the high rocks here.

Staff have also noted that the gradient of several areas in the garden was too steep to retain soil. Gravity, combined with foot traffic on these slopes, has lowered the garden bed significantly, over a foot in places, making it unsuitable for planting.

Since this alpine garden is a significant asset for Otari, we felt it is worthwhile reconfiguring parts of the garden to fix these problems. From our collection management point of view, we have kept in mind that the plants in this collection are both hard to get and hard to grow. We want users of this garden to have reasonable access to the area and enjoy the plants, without compromising the function and purpose of the garden.

Weather permitting; we will have a new look rock garden in early November. Space available for planting has increased dramatically, but will be minimal until conditions become more suitable next winter.

Another important item on our current agenda is the renewal of Otari-Wilton's Bush Management Plan. Public submissions on the draft plan are being sought now. The draft plan has clarified the future roles of Otari-Wilton's Bush and sets a strategic direction for the next 10 years. The draft plan has been prepared following public input from this year.

The deadline for submissions on the draft plan is 5.00pm on Friday 26 January 2007.

On a final note, our long time residents Grant, Nicole, Caleb and Ben who were in the Curators house next to our nursery have recently moved out. We are awaiting new residents, who will be Council employees from elsewhere in the Parks and Gardens business unit.

Rewi Elliot



Curator/Manager Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Otari Centenary 1906 - 2006

www.otari100.org.nz

All the Trust Board members and especially the Centenary Sub-committee have been working to make centenary events happen.

There are still events in the pipeline, and ones that are just a twinkle in our eye, that we need members' help to bring to fruition.

If you have time to help, contact any of the Board members— especially the Board members on the Centenary Sub-committee – Alastair Bisley, Maggy Wassilieff and Johanne McComish.

Bioblitz: March 23/24, 2007

The Bioblitz is definitely on!

Thanks to the Wellington City Council we have a grant to make it possible.

We also have the support of the Wellington City Council; Victoria University of Wellington, School of Biological Sciences; the Royal Society of New Zealand; and the Greater Wellington Regional Council all helping us with the organisation of the Bioblitz.

Make sure you set aside 24 hours of 2007 to find out all about everything that lives in Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Our Bioblitz will start on Friday 23 March 2007 with a session for schools (organised by the Royal Society with the Regional Council) and it's then open to the public from 3pm on Friday 23 March until 3pm Saturday 24 March.

Overnight you can creep about in the dark and see what the insect and other experts can find.

We're planning a special dawn ceremony to usher in the Saturday, with help from the birds (and the cicadas if we are lucky).

Breakfast to follow.

Then a day of biodiversity with the clock ticking, and plenty of displays, talks and walks for everyone.

We need lots of help with the Bioblitz – let us know if you can help on the day and/or before it.
admin@otari100.org.nz



History

We also received a grant from the Wellington City Council for the Oral History of Otari – Wilton's Bush.

Jonathan Kennett is already at work on this.

Please contact him on 04 472 5891 if you can help with the oral history – with your memories and knowledge, or in any other way.

100 Photos

Jeremy Rolfe ran a very successful and practical hands-on botanical photography workshop for 20 participants. Many thanks to Jeremy and the participant photographers.

We want plenty of photographs recording Otari during this centenary year, and especially during the Bioblitz.

Photographers please take note.

100 kilometers

The 100 kilometer challenge is up and running.

See www.otari100.org.nz

Several people have nearly completed their 100 kilometers in Otari – do yours before Christmas and you'll be able to enjoy that Christmas dinner.

Geology

Hamish Campbell very kindly gave a fascinating talk (with site visit) about the geology of New Zealand, the Wellington region, greywacke and the valley that is Otari-Wilton's Bush. Did you know that the Kaiwharawhara Stream is unusual in that it crosses a fault?

100 meter Plant ID

We've identified two 100 meter sections of track for our plant ID contest. It's a mini-Bioblitz really – get in training!

One section is between posts 9 and 10 of the Nature Trail. Three of us took a quick walk along and identified nearly 90 different plant species. Not counting a very spectacular fungus, and numerous

mosses and lichens. Not even beginning to think about insects and other inhabitants – although we couldn't help noticing the tuis.

Email us your list and we'll tell you if you found anything we didn't. Or ask for our list and you can



check it out and tell us if we need to go back to school! admin@otari100.org.nz

Centenary Babes in the Bush

We've recorded one new babe who'll grow up with the new plantings down by the stream.

Don't forget to tell us about your children, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, godchildren, or other favourite new babies that we can record as Centenary Babes. admin@otari100.org.nz

www.otari100.org.nz

This is the centenary website. Go visit for the latest information!

Revegetation Project

As we go to print Jonathan and Bronwen are in deepest Fiordland, armed with a permit, collecting for Otari.

But sadly Jonathan and Bronwen report that they will be retiring from the revegetation work in Otari at the end of next month. They have been exemplary recruiting and retaining volunteers for the Trust to undertake the revegetation project. The outstanding success of plant survival and growth, which they have carefully monitored has been an example to all open-space groups who are revegetating native plants in the Wellington area.

Jonathan and Bronwen say they are very happy with the fish ladders put in place below Blackbridge Road, and further down in the Trelissick Park area. But they will be around to see the variety of fish which will slowly re-inhabit the stream and its tributaries.

All is going well with plant-care of those that have been planted, but there is more to do.

Kate McKenzie will be taking over after December, and we wish her well.

Jock Fleming



Book Review

"Harry Watson" The Mile Eater

published by the Kennett Bros. in association with Whitireia Publishing 2006

Authors Jonathan Kennett, Bronwen Wall, Ian Gray. Generously illustrated. 176 pages. Cost \$24:99

This is the second of a series 'New Zealand Cycling Legends'. which hopefully will run to ten. The authors well known to all of us at Otari are doing a great service to cycling history.

The reviewer was only a recreational cyclist, but this is a thriller for all.

Its centre piece is the New Zealander, Harry Watson's entry and completion of the Tour de France in 1928. The sporting event that Ernest Hemingway called 'the greatest sporting event in the world'. Imagine riding the Tour de France – 5377 km – on a bike with two gears, over roads equivalent to modern day mountain bike trails, an indication of the physical power, mental drive and discipline needed.

It was 27 years before an Englishman completed the 'tour', and they were great cyclists.

Harry Watson: The Mile Eater is the second book in the Kennett Brothers' Cycling Legends series.

Written by cycling writer and enthusiast, Jonathan Kennett. The book has many previously unpublished photographs.

Harry Watson is as informative and popular as Kennett's other books.

Jock Fleming



More on the November summer walk....

Andy McKay & the Southern Tracks

Sunday 26 November 2.00 p.m.

A substantial walk from the Information Centre Te Marae o Tane, 160 Wilton Rd, along the Kaiwharawhara Stream valley and into the Karori cemetery.

Andy McKay was the first caretaker of Otari (1926-1946). This walk is a pilgrimage to Andy M^cKay's grave in the Soldiers' Cemetery where a tribute will be laid on his grave.

We will return home to the Otari Information Centre by the Blue Trail.

The party can be met half-way.

Timetable:

2.00 p.m. leave from the Information Centre for Troup Picnic Ground, then up stream to Karori cemetery & and the Soldiers' Cemetery.

3.00 pm. Tribute to Andy M^cKay from Otari Staff. Lament, small wreath, no speeches. Return via the Tangiwai Memorial Grave to the Blue Trail. (Opportunity for the more energetic to take upper trail to the giant rimu.)

We estimate 4.15 -4.30pm return to the Information Centre.

Cup of tea.

Leader on the ground Stan Pillar - 479-6789, for further details.

Information - John Riseborough 478-9813



Celmisia angustifolia

Mountain Daisy.

This mountain daisy is a low growing, branching subshrub, which can form large patches in tussock grassland or open rocky sites. It is found in the South Island, east of the main divide, from mid Canterbury to North Otago. The foliage is an attractive silvery green, and sticky to touch. Like many alpine plants, cultivation can be tricky. It is growing in the General Rock Garden at Otari, in a sunny, well drained spot in a gritty soil. Flowers are in late spring though the Otari plant has not flowered this year.

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

(Supporting Otari-Wilton's Bush Reserve)

Membership Application Form

We are delighted to welcome new members - whatever your interest in Otari -Wilton's Bush - from a desire to participate in active friendly volunteer support and educational activities, or just the satisfaction of being associated with this wonderful native plant reserve.

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.

Yes, I would like to join the Trust.

Name (s) :

Postal Address :

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Telephone contact number/s : ().....

E-mail address: < >

Billing Name and Address :.....

(if different from above)

Subscription	Corporate	\$30	\$
	Double/Family	\$15	\$
	Individual	\$10	\$
	Student/Unwaged	\$5	\$
Donation*			\$
Total payment	(please enclose cheque**)		\$

*The Trust is registered as a Charitable organisation and donations over \$5.00 qualify for a tax rebate to individual taxpayers. (annual limits apply) We will provide a donation receipt to support your tax rebate claim

**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
- Administration
- Historical Research
- Hosting at the Information centre
- Guiding

Please send this completed form with your cheque to:

The Treasurer,
Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust,
160 Wilton Road, Wilton,

