

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views June, 2007

Web site: www.otari100.org.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

The first Saturday of each month. 9am	Plant care will run on the first Saturday of June, July, August and September. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044
Winter Events	
Friday each month 7.30pm	Friday 22 June, 20 July, 24 August, 21 September. Glow worm walks. Leader Dave Burton. Meet at Otari Information Centre at 7.30pm. See p.6 for details.
Sunday 24 June. 2pm	Come and learn about what goes on behind the scenes at Otari. Curator <i>Rewi Elliot</i> will take you on a walk, which will include a visit to the nursery, and will tell you about how he and his staff maintain and improve Otari-Wilton's Bush. Meet at the Otari Information Centre at 2 pm.
Sunday 22 July 2pm	Not the best time of year for weather, but a good time for a short walk from the Wild Garden to the Lookout with plenty of interesting plants to catch our attention. At this time many of our trees are forming their flower buds in readiness for the spring. Meet at the Otari information Centre at 2 pm. <i>Leader John Dawson.</i>
Saturday 11 August.	This is Open Day at Otari and there will be different walks on offer at 10am, 11 am, 2 pm and 3pm. They will start from the Information Centre.
Sunday 26 August. 2pm	Small-leaved twiggy shrubs or divaricates are a strange and conspicuous feature of the New Zealand flora, which has resulted in a number of theories. We will have a close look at examples from a number of unrelated genera in the Information Centre, then go out into the gardens to see a wide range of divaricate species and natural hybrids between some of them and related big-leaved species. <i>Leader: John Dawson</i> Meet at the Information Centre at 2 pm.
Sunday 23 September. 2pm	Ferns are a conspicuous feature of New Zealand forests, ranging from small, delicate filmy ferns to massive tree ferns. Many grow on the forest floor, but others climb up tree trunks or perch on their branches. Come and see some of our ferns and learn about how they live their lives. Meet at the Information Centre at 2 pm. <i>Leader: John Dawson</i>

Trust Board 2007- 2008

Postal Address: 160 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington. 6012



At the Trust Annual General Meeting, held on 15 May, 2007, the following candidates nominated for the Board of Trustees were declared duly elected for the current year, there being no further nominations. Following this meeting the Board elected the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, to hold these positions until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees for the current year is:

Chairman Phil Parnell	Phone: 4792725	landy@xtra.co.nz
Secretary: Margaret Crimp:	Phone: 475 3263	m.crimp@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer. Jocelyn Hoskin	Phone: 475 8696	jocelynhoskin@xtra.co.nz
Johanne McComish	Phone: 06 364 2445, or 027 2278357	mccomish@paradise.net.nz
Peter Buxton	Phone: 472 3456	jbuxton@paradise.net.nz
Wilbur Dovey	Phone: 499 1044	cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz
Maggy Wassilieff	Phone: 383 6100	zl2afp@xtra.co.nz
Susan Waugh-Filippi	Phone: 976 422	Waugh.filippi@paradise.net.nz
Cathy Wylie	Phone: 938 6498	cathy.wylie@nzcer.org.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

Annual General Meeting: Chairman's Report



At our Annual General Meeting on 15th May we had nine nominees to fill the eight positions decided by the outgoing Board as an appropriate level. A duly proposed resolution from the members present, decided that rather than conduct a ballot, the Board can accept all nominees, and all nominees were consequently elected. We are pleased to welcome two new Trustees, Jocelyn Hoskin who has subsequently accepted the role of Treasurer, and Susan Waugh-Filippi.

At the meeting, three Trustees were thanked and farewelled. Alastair Bisley who has been on the Board for two years was one of the members of the hardworking Centenary committee. He was responsible for the very successful launch of the Centenary year.

The other two Trustees stepping down were Athol Swann and Jock Fleming. They are two of the original Trustees – in fact Jock was a main proponent for the establishment of this Community organisation and served as its first Chairman, and Athol has served in this capacity since late 2003. It is their vision and hard work that has enabled the Trust to be recognised by the City Council and wider community as a valued partner of Otari. They will be greatly missed from the Board. I am sure that they will continue to assist the Board with their knowledge for the various projects we undertake.

The Trust thanks Alastair, Athol and Jock for all the enthusiasm, expertise and time they have committed to Otari in the past years.

After the AGM there was a very interesting and informative discussion lead by a panel of scientists who had taken part in the March Bioblitz.

"Professor Phil Garnock-Jones said that the Bioblitz was a very enjoyable event for scientists and an unusual & valuable opportunity to work together on taxonomy and the ecology of a single location. Margaret Harper & Rodney Lewington both reported on the large numbers of species still to be found and identified in their areas, in addition to what they found during the Bioblitz. Rudi Schnitzler reported on the large number of as yet unidentified insects that were collected - now held at Victoria University. He suggested that if some funding were available there are senior students who could do the first level of sorting into orders. With more funding this sorting could be carried further to family, sub family, genus and morpho-species or species level.

Donations from members, or offers of help towards securing funding for this purpose, would be a great contribution to the on-going work of building up the scientific record for Otari."

I am privileged to have been elected to the chair of the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust and hope the new Board can continue the great work done in the centenary year. I look forward to meeting as many members as possible and hearing suggestions and ideas for projects that the Trust can initiate or carry out in partnership with the Council Parks and Gardens staff.

It is an important time in the development of Otari-Wilton's Bush.

The new ten year management plan has been approved by the Council and is available at www.wellington.govt.nz. Your Board prepared a major submission to this plan and was consulted by Parks and Gardens management team.

One of the first steps in the plan is the preparation of a landscape plan which the Board intends to follow with interest bearing in mind suggestions made already to the Council.

I look forward to seeing you all at this year's Open Day on August 11th for the annual plant sale and other activities.

Phil Parnell.

Manager's Otari Report

Report to Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

May 2007



Hi everybody,

Planting season is here, and I have just come up from the Troup Picnic Lawn where volunteers have been planting along a small section of the streamside and in the areas that were affected by the pine removals and redevelopment works here last year. It won't be long before there is tree cover once more, and some of our grandchildren will be lucky enough to see tall podocarps one day – a very fitting replacement for the pines.

Also new at the Troup is the toilet, which is a welcome replacement for the old block. The new toilet will be up and running when electricity is connected, which should be in the next couple of months.

We have been winding down from the BioBlitz held in March. Once again, many thanks to all the Trust members who contributed to this very successful event, I hope you all got to come along and share in the discoveries. One of the highlights for the staff here was networking with the scientific community. Getting their opinions on what they found and what it might mean for Otari's management was invaluable.

Last month I visited Mt Annan Botanic Gardens in Sydney, a satellite garden of the Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens. It is very similar to Otari in many ways, with natural woodland areas, and Australian native plant collections spread over 416 hectares. I spent nearly six hours there and got a pretty good tour thanks to director Caz McCallum and other staff. The garden looked absolutely fantastic, and it was great to be able to draw many parallels with Otari while talking to them.

The annual Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day is coming up on Saturday 11 August. There will be plenty to see and do this year. The plant sale will have some of New Zealand's finest for sale, walks and talks will be held both indoors and out and there will be displays by the Trust and other environmental groups from around Wellington.

All the best,

Rewi Elliot

Curator/Manager

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Phone: 475 3245

Jock Fleming and Athol Swan



As mentioned in the Chairman's report Jock was the main proponent in the establishment of the Trust. He persuaded Athol to join him in the Organising Group. Athol agreed to join, intending to stay for a couple of years. Now seven years since its inception these two invaluable Trustees have stepped down. In the past seven years they have both chaired the Board, attended hundreds of meetings – Board meetings, Council committee meetings and meetings with other groups. In addition they have written dozens of submissions on a variety of issues. Throughout their tenure on the Board they have established a successful working relationship with these groups

Jock began the Revegetation project down in the Kaiwharawhara valley. He liaised with the City Council, the Regional Council, and volunteers, obtaining the grants and aid required to make this revegetation area the wonderful success it is. Jock is a well known track builder. In Otari he will be remembered for “Jock's Track” which runs from the Flax Clearing up to the road near the power pylons. At the recent AGM David Sole commented that Jock had been fitted with a GPS so that the Council could monitor his track building activities!

Athol has put his interest in woodturning to good use initially being responsible for the seats on the deck at the Information Centre. He then, with Bill Winstanley, was responsible for the building of the Glow Worm Viewing Platform. From there he moved onto the construction of the Rata Boardwalk. He has also been responsible for production and distribution of our beautiful cards. Athol has also been constantly promoting improved facilities at Otari for visitor information, education, and research.

We hope that they enjoy their well deserved retirement.

Margaret Crimp

**“Otari-Wilton's Bush –
National Garden of Significance”**

**“The Centenary year is not over yet!!!!
Have you completed any of the challenges –
walked 100 km in Otari,
taken 100 photos?”**

Project RAMBO

About the time you receive this newsletter, 56 DOC200 kill traps, which have recently been set throughout Otari-Wilton's Bush, will be claiming their first victims. A team of 30 volunteers are working in partnership with WCC and Greater Wellington to reduce the numbers of rats and stoats in the reserve.



The first step has been to monitor these predators by setting up 60 tracking tunnels. This was done at the end of May and beginning of June. Straight after the monitoring, the traps, which were put in place by volunteers in May, will be set, and checked regularly thereafter. Monitoring will be repeated in four months time to assess the effectiveness of trapping. If the Rodent and Mustelid Blitzing at Otari (RAMBO) is successful the breeding rates of hole nesting birds (ie, Morepork and Kingfisher) will rise. The natural regeneration of the forest should also improve, as rats are known to eat many seeds as well as insects and lizards.

In the long run, we also hope this programme will make it possible for species such as Bellbird and Kaka to begin breeding again at Otari-Wilton's Bush.

The results of the monitoring and trapping will be included in future newsletters. The traps and tracking tunnels have been generously paid for by BOLT (Balance Of Life Trust). For further information, please contact Jonathan Kennett in the evenings on 472 5891, or email jonathan@kennett.co.nz

Glow worm walks

Friday 22 June, 20 July, 24 August, 21 September. 7.30 p.m. Leader – Dave Burton

The walk on June 22 is part of the Wellington City Council's Matariki (Māori New Year) Celebrations.

Take a walk through the bush at night, down the Nature Trail to the Kaiwharawara stream. Have a look at tree ferns, rimus, epiphytes in profusion, rats, crayfish – and glow worms. Imagine what it would be like living in a gelatinous tube and using a light shining out of your rear end to catch an exclusive diet of midges! The tour starts from the information centre, and you'll need good shoes, warm clothing, and a torch. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Glow worms guaranteed!

Participants must book through the Treehouse ph 499 1400 before 1pm Friday; the cost being \$4, \$2 for children. In the event of bad weather for cancellations ring 499 4444 after 5pm. Meet at the Otari Information Centre.

OTARI VOLUNTEERS

Saturday morning plant care is continuing throughout the winter. We meet at 9am at the Information Centre on the first Saturday of each month to continue removing pest plants and tidying up the areas planted in previous years along the Kaiwharawhara Stream. Bring any tools you might need like pruning saws, loppers etc. We generally work until 11am and then have a cup of tea. Later in the year we may also do some planting.



Thursday volunteers meet at the Information Centre at 8.30am each Thursday to assist Otari staff with various tasks.

Contact Wilbur or Liz Dovey 499 1044



Coprinus disseminatus This is one example of what was found when on Sunday, 20 May, Alison Stringer led a fungal foray at Otari. The group was amazed and fascinated by the number and variety of fungi to be found in a two hour ramble along part of the Circular Walk.

Open Day - Plant Sale.

This event is being held earlier this year – on **Saturday, 11 August.**

You rallied magnificently to the call for help for the Bioblitz. For that we were very grateful but now we have to ask again for your help. The **Cake stall/refreshment stand** 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. Contributions can be left in the meeting room of the Information Centre on Friday afternoon, 10 August, or delivered to the cake stall on Saturday morning. Any questions please contact Margaret Crimp, 475 3263 Email; m.crimp@xtra.co.nz



THE WADESTOWN HISTORY GROUP

The Group meets monthly, mainly to swap photos, maps, and plans of Early Wadestown, Wilton, and of course Otari.

Members belong to The Onslow Historical Society, and The Otari Trust.

Early photos are sought – to be borrowed, copied, and immediately returned.

Have you photos of The Black Bridge The Great Gum
 Andy McKay Walking The Pipe ?

We might have a photo you would like.

Phone	Ann Moffat	Convenor	472-9359
	Barbara Hampton		479-5482
	Stan Pillar		479-6789
	John Riseborough		478-9813

Walks & Talks - New Courses at Otari

Inspired by John Dawson's speech at the launch of the Centennial Year, in particular his interest in increasing the use of Otari-Wilton's bush as a public education facility, Onslow College have been working with John to offer some new courses in October/ November. These courses will all be based at the Education Centre. If they prove successful we will hope to expand further in 2008.



For further information on any of these courses or to enrol you need to phone Onslow College Adult & Community Education 477 1118, email commed@onslow.school.nz or check out the web site at www.onslow.school.nz (hit the community button).

The three following short courses all follow the same format of one Wednesday evening 7-9pm and the following Saturday morning from 10am. \$60 for all 3 courses; or \$30 each

The Cultivation of Native Plants

Otari-Wilton's Bush has two aspects - an extensive area of native forest, and a special botanic garden where many native plants from all over New Zealand are cultivated. Rewi Elliot, curator manager of Otari, will talk about the development of the cultivated areas at Otari. The talk will be illustrated with historical and recent photos. The Saturday walk will be around the cultivated areas highlighting species of special merit for the home garden. A tour of the nursery will be included. Wednesday 10 & Saturday 13 October

Introduction to our Native Ferns

New Zealand is notable for its abundance of ferns, almost 200 species, ranging from small and delicate filmy ferns to massive tree ferns. The talk will look at the place of ferns in New Zealand's landscape and culture, as well as describing the characteristics useful for identifying ferns. Leon Perrie is a Botanist from Te Papa. The Saturday workshop will involve hands-on identification, followed by a walk around Otari-Wilton's Bush to see living specimens of many of the species. Wednesday 21 & Saturday 24 November

What Bug is That?

What's that crawling up my leg? Find out about the unique and often secret life of the bugs, slugs, beetles and other creepy crawlies that live in New Zealand bush. Dave Burton lectures in Biology at Victoria University. The evening talk on Wednesday will be followed by an identification and bush walk the following Saturday.

Wednesday 28 November & Saturday 1 December

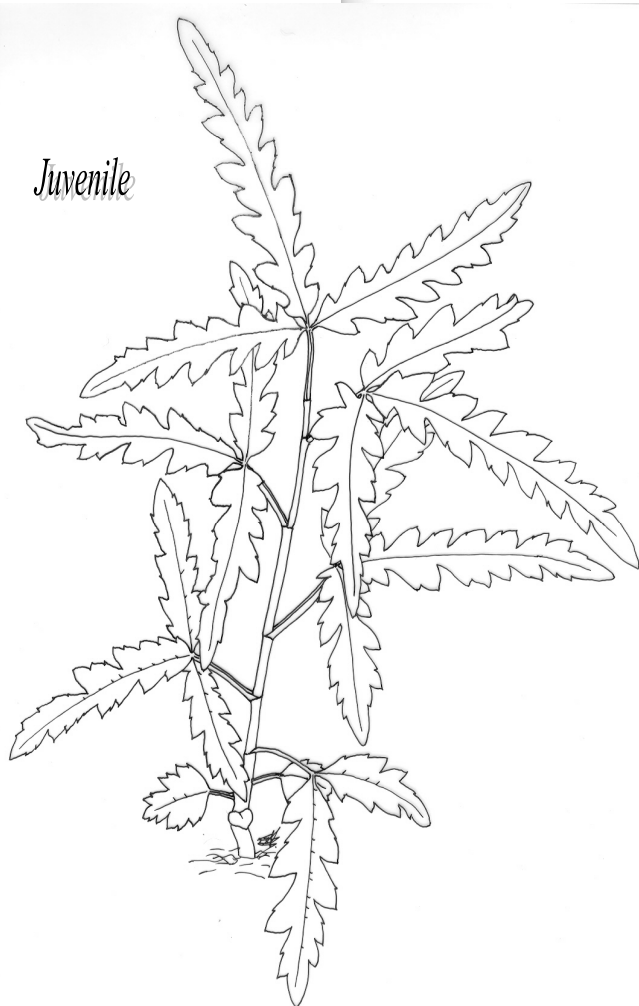
Also John Dawson's own course which has run successfully for a number of years. It is comments from participants in this course that have been helpful in suggesting new courses.

What Native Plant is That?

All about New Zealand native plants. We will look mainly at the forests which are well represented around Wellington, but we will also consider other, particularly alpine communities. Includes 2 Wednesday evenings 7-9pm, a Saturday identification morning at Otari Information Centre, and Saturday trips to Kaitoke Regional Park, Waikanae Forest Reserves and Otari - Wiltons Bush. It starts on Wednesday 24 October \$60. (Leaflets are available from the Otari Information Centre.

Raukaua edgerleyi
(syn. *Pseudopanax edgerleyi*)

Raukawa



This is a small tree related to *Pseudopanax* (five-finger). This drawing is of the juvenile form. When adult they form a small tree to about 5 metres. They can grow as an epiphyte, and the only one we know of in the bush at Otari is growing out of a tree fern at the top of the Blue Trail. The illustrated seedling has grown from seed collected from this tree. *Raukaua edgerleyi* can be seen growing in the *Pseudopanax* border at the lower end of the generic borders, and in the edge of the Wild Garden. The adult leaves are not dissected into leaflets, and the edges of leaves are entire, not toothed. It makes a very attractive plant, but it is not readily available.

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 :

.....
.....

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work parties | <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting at the Information centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Guiding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Research | |

Please send this completed form with your cheque to:

**The Treasurer,
Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust,
160 Wilton Road, Wilton,
Wellington 6012**