

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views September, 2007

Web site: www.otari100.org.nz For all walks meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane unless otherwise stated. (Walks are free to Trust members, otherwise \$3)

The September, October & November walks are part of the Heritage Gardens Spring Festival
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 will run on the first Saturday of September, October, November, December. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044</p>
<p>Friday 21 September 7.30pm</p>	<p>Glow worm walk. 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, ratas, crayfish – and glow worms You will 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. <i>Leader Dave Burton.</i> Meet at Otari Information Centre at 7.30pm.</p>
<p>Saturday 15 September 2pm</p>	<p>Highlights of the Otari-Wilton's Bush collections <i>Leader John Dawson</i> Meet at the Otari Information Centre at 2 pm.</p>
<p>Sunday 23 September 2pm</p>	<p>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. <i>Leader Leon Perrie.</i> Meet at the Information Centre at 2 pm.</p>
<p>Sunday 28 October 2pm</p>	<p>Huntleigh Forest Park, Crofton Downs. Not actually part of Otari, but not far away. This secondary forest has been a reserve for about 50 years and is now dense and vigorous and well worth a close inspection. Meet at 2 pm at the Girl Guides Centre, which is at the end of a short road running from Silverstream Road down to the stream. <i>Leader Olaf John.</i></p>
<p>Sunday 25 November 2pm</p>	<p>Time for another historical walk to look at dray roads, farm sites, etc., and to hear about both Maori and Pakeha involvement in Otari- Wilton's Bush and its vicinity. We will end with refreshments in the garden of the historic Wilton Homestead. <i>Leader Sandra Clarke</i> Meet at the Information Centre at 2 pm.</p>
<p>Sunday 23 December.</p>	<p>Take a break from Christmas preparations for a walk around the Nature Trail, and bring your out-of-town visitors. The Nature Trail is our showcase walk, which tells the overall Otari story. Meet at the Information Centre at 2 pm.</p>



Trust Board 2007- 2008

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

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

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Susan Waugh-Filippi Phone: 976 4227
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

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Chairman's Report

Since my last report the Trust Board and members have been busy with a number of activities related to our centenary year. I would like to thank all those who have helped with Open Day, the Bioblitz Display launch and the Centenary babes planting last weekend.

The Board has also been busy with submissions to various WCC plans which potentially affect Otari-Wilton's Bush. These include the draft biodiversity plan, changes to infill housing regulations, Tinakori Hill landscape upgrade and earth works regulations; thanks to all who provided input.

Project Kaiwharawhara (revegetation of the stream) is in good heart with over 30 people attending a recent meeting and the addition of a new group close to Otari-Wilton's Bush at Abermarle St Northland making good progress on one of the waterways running into the stream within Otari-Wilton's Bush.

The Bioblitz display is now on at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea and is also included in the program for the Heritage gardens spring festival run by the Heritage promotion council. See www.wellingtonheritagepromotions.org.nz. Programs are available at Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre.

Otari-Wilton's Bush is also having some events during this festival. I encourage members to participate where possible all over the Greater Wellington area.

Please feel free to contact any Board member for any further information you may require.

Phil Parnell.

On 30 August we sent out to members an email notice about the Bioblitz display at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea. If you have an email address, did not get this message, but would like to get occasional email messages from the Trust, please email mccomish@paradise.net.nz to let Johanne McComish know the address you would like messages sent to.

Manager's Otari Report

Report to Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

September 2007

Hi everyone,

Open day has come and gone with the usual throngs of buyers looking to add a little native flavour to their garden. Despite the dubious weather and a resultant loss of Eftpos connection all day, the day went reasonably well. It's always a pleasure to see the Cockayne Lawn full of people who are passionate about native plants. Those who headed for the skyline with Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne returned with slightly damp jackets and big smiles. Thank you to all who were involved in the preparation and those who helped on the day. We are already in the throes of planning for next year's event.

The final celebration of the centenary year was on Saturday 25 August, with 19 large tree species planted for babies born during past year. Fine weather and enthusiastic families made for a great morning. These trees will form part of the mature canopy in the forest that will cover this valley in years to come. Also at the end of the centenary, a BioBlitz display has been set up at the Museum of City and Sea. This is some excellent, high profile promotion for Otari and those who participated in the event. Well done Phil for your work on this.

At Otari we are finishing up our revegetation planting for the year, with only a few smaller areas to go. Many of the collections will be attended to now before the spring flush of growth is upon us, and the weeds start sprouting madly!

The Troup picnic area is looking fantastic after its makeover during the past 12 months, and visitors this summer will be able to fully enjoy the new facilities. New seats have been installed in the shelter, and a new mapboard will be going in soon. The new toilets are due for their final inspection in the last week of August and will then be open to the public during daylight hours.

When you're next at Otari, keep an eye out for the Otari pamphlet and the Nature Trail pamphlet, which have both been updated recently. Updates include changes that have occurred at Otari since the pamphlets were last designed, and they now sport new red and green livery.

With days growing longer and temperatures growing warmer, I urge you all to take advantage and head off to Otari to escape the urban jungle, enjoy the sun, and connect with one of the best experiences Wellington has to offer.

See you there,

Rewi Elliot

Curator/Manager

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Phone: 475 3245

Stellin Plaque Unveiled

Stellin Memorial Park Orangi-Kaupapa Road Northland

This ceremony held recently celebrated the involvement of an Wellington airman in World War Two and his act of gallantry in avoiding a French village before crashing. The village people still remember him to this day. The park land was donated by his family some 30 years ago and due to the efforts of a local historian John Bickerton a plaque has been finally erected in his honour.

His family were in attendance at the ceremony which was attended by 200 people including a number of trust representatives. The mayor unveiled the plaque. . We encourage members to view it on a nice day as the view is fantastic and to remember loved ones lost in wars around the globe.

It can be reached from the Ridgeline track on Tinakori Hill (upper Weld St entrance) or from the carpark on Orangi-Kaupapa Road.

Open Day 2007

This year Open Day was held some weeks earlier than usual to coincide with Conservation Week. An interesting programme was planned with walks and talks in addition to the Plant Sale and Trust refreshment stands.

Alas the weather was horrendous but in spite of this events went ahead. People queued in the wind and rain to buy plants. People went on the guided walks and people enjoyed sampling the gourmet tramping food cooked by John Sawyer in his demonstration..

The barbecue did well making \$276. 90 (278.50 last year). The cake stall did well though less than last year - \$546.70 (606.50). The Vodaphone Eftpos system went down which meant people spent cash on plants rather than on food!! However we thought we did well in spite of the setbacks.

We are very grateful to those who supplied all the delicious food and also to those who came and helped on the day – thank you all very much.

Centenary Finale with the Centenary Babies

We didn't reach the target of 100 babies but on Saturday, 25 September, the Centenary Year was wound up in grand style with the parents of 16 babies planting trees in the Kaiwharawhara Valley in the revegetated area along the stream side of the south Picnic ground. The trees were all species that will become canopy trees. In years to come the children will be able to walk along the valley and see the miro, pukatea, hinau, kahikatea etc beginning to dominate the forest.

One tree had been planted earlier so a total of 17 was planted. Many thanks to Otari for providing the trees.

Keep NZ Beautiful

We are again joining in the annual Cleanup of NZ. This year we have two projects. The first is on Thursday, September 6, when we are planning to clean up the streams in Otari. The second is on Thursday, September 13, when we are going to clean up the boundaries and tracks. Members will be very welcome to come on either or both days.

Unfortunately you might not read this before September 6 but hopefully you do check our website for events.

Meet on the deck at the Information Centre at 8.45. Bags and gloves will be provided. If coming to clean up the stream it would be advisable to wear gumboots.

Open Day Raffle Result

Congratulations to the winners who were :-

First prize (Book- 'The Nature of Plants' by John Dawson & Rob Lucas) : Shirley Milward, Ohariu Valley.

Second prize (Selection of 4 native plants) : David Sole, Wellington Botanic Gardens.

Third prize (Book- 'Plantme Instead') : Liz Dovey, Wilton.

OTARI VOLUNTEERS

Saturday morning plant care is continuing. 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

Dear Otari Wilton's Bush Trust Members

First, the Otari 2007 Bioblitz display is now on in the Museum of Wellington City and Sea, at the main entrance to Queens Wharf.

It is on the ground floor front corner to the right of the reception desk.

It is on until mid November. Entry is free.

There are stunning photos and results charts from the Bioblitz held in March 2007. Meet your friends there & spread the word.

Second, thank you very much to all those who came along to support Otari Open Day on 11 August. A specially big thank you to those who assisted by bringing food to sell, helped run stalls etc.

Regards

Johanne McComish

Otari Wilton's Bush Trust

Forthcoming Book Launches:

New Book and Te Ara -Encyclopedia of New Zealand theme.

A new orchid field guide is to be launched at the Otari Wiltons Bush Information Centre on Tuesday 4 September.

Wild orchids of the lower North Island - Field guide

by Peter de Lange, Jeremy Rolfe, Ian St George and John Sawyer.
Published by Wellington Department of Conservation.

The Bush - A new theme of Te Ara - encyclopedia of New Zealand is to be launched on 25th September.

With over 100 entries on New Zealand's terrestrial environment it provides a wealth of information on our major plant groups, ecosystems and animals.

Some entries have been written by OWBT members, Bob Brockie, John Dawson, Christina Troup and Maggy Wassilieff.

Plants at Otari and Wilton's bush feature in some of Melanie Lovell-Smith's photographs.

After the 25th September you can view this material at: <http://www.teara.govt.nz>

Another Recent Book

The *Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand 1994 - 2004* by C.J.R. Robertson, P. Hyvonen, M.J. Fraser and C.R. Pickard, published by the Ornithological Society of New Zealand was launched in August.

This book has over 400 plates describing the distribution of birds in New Zealand, species by species, including seasonal distributions. It also includes the coastal distributions (around the New Zealand mainland) of marine bird species. The analysis explores birds occurring in different habitats (e.g. wetlands, alpine, forest) and by their threat status. The atlas replaces an earlier OSNZ publication, put out in 1985.

To inquire about getting your own copy, contact OSNZ@xtra.co.nz

Heritage Gardens, A Spring Festival.

During September to November this year, a large number of garden visits and talks are being hosted throughout the Wellington area as part of this festival.

There's a great range of events: check these out in the brochure in the Visitor Centre, phone Phillip Vallance 06 378 6268 or visit www.wellingtonheritagepromotions.org.nz.

Otari Wilton's Bush is featured, with three talks / outings planned on

- 15 September - Highlights of Otari-Wilton's Bush Collections
- 23 September - Guided Visit to the Fern Collection
- 25 November - Historical Features of Otari-Wilton's Bush.

All these events are starting at the Visitor Centre, running between 2 - 3.30 pm. Thanks to Sandra Clarke, John Dawson and Leon Perrie for guiding these events.

For inquiries about these three walks, contact Susan Waugh 976 4227, waugh.filippi@paradise.net.nz

Walks & Talks - New Courses at Otari

Please note there has been a change of date for Rewi Elliot's course on Cultivation of Native Plants. It is now on Wednesday 3 and Saturday 6 October, (a week earlier than stated in the last newsletter).

These courses were 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.

There are still places available on these courses. For further information 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

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 3 & Saturday 6 October

Introduction to our Native 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.



Parsonsia heterophylla

Akakiore, Kaihua, native jasmine

This is a climber which is very common in Wellington, and found throughout the country and on some of the offshore islands. It can climb to 10 metres, and is generally found growing in coastal and lowland forests, especially around the margins. The juvenile form has very long narrow leaves, the adult shorter and wider. It has creamy scented flowers in panicles in spring, very prolific, followed by long slender pods with wind borne seeds. In cultivation it is easy to grow and has probably turned up in your garden of its own accord. It likes a cool root run, and climbs up into the sun. A very good plant to grow through a hedge.

Stop Press:

Eleanor Burton (who does these drawings) has given birth to a son – Mark Reece Gordon. Congratulations and best wishes to Eleanor and her family.

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

**Please send this completed form with your cheque to:
The Treasurer,**

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

