

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## News and Views December, 2007

Web site: [www.otari100.org.nz](http://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)  
For information re walks and seminars contact the Treehouse on (04) 499 1400

<p>The first Saturday of each month. 9am</p>	<p><b>Plant care</b> will run on the first Saturday of December, February, March. Note: <b>not</b> in January. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044</p>
<p><b>Sunday 23 December 2pm</b></p>	<p>Take a break from Christmas preparations for a walk around the <b>Nature Trail</b>, 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>
<p><b>Sunday 27 January 2.30pm</b></p>	<p>The January walk will start at the <b>Troup Picnic Ground</b> 2.30. We will go from there southwards along the stream to view the results of the revegetation project of the past several years. The pioneer species planted are now quite tall and form a dense cover. An easy walk of about an hour or so. Return to the picnic ground for a <b>barbeque</b> late afternoon to early evening. Bring your own food for cooking</p>
<p><b>Sunday 24 February 2pm</b></p>	<p>This will be a <b>tour of the planted gardens at Otari</b> from the Wild Garden to the Lookout and below. See some of our rare or difficult of access species and other unusual native plants with interesting stories. An easy walk for about 1.5 hours. <i>Leader: John Dawson</i> Meet at the Otari Information Centre at 2 pm.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 9 March 2pm</b></p>	<p>This is part of the <b>Stepping Out</b> programme. <b>The Nature Trail</b> is our showcase walk, which tells the overall Otari story. <i>Leader John Dawson.</i> Meet at the Information Centre at 2pm. 1.5 hours.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 30 March 9am</b></p>	<p><b>Tunnel Gully.</b> If you want to share transport meet at the Otari carpark at 9 am, otherwise meet us at the carpark in front of the shop where the road to Te Marua turns off to the right from Highway 2, north of Upper Hutt. The Tunnel Gully Reserve is near the old rail bed and has a number of tall conifers and other trees. A track on the other side of the rail bed leads through beech forest. Bring your lunch. <i>Leader John Dawson.</i></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
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 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

We are now heading into summer and there is plenty to see and do in Otari-Wilton's Bush and many of the other parks around the city. Make a point of visiting or take in one of the organised walks. Otari staff and volunteers have been working hard to present the bush in the best condition. Tell your friends and neighbours as many people have never been! Few cities in the world have such a large bush remnant so close to the CBD.

The Trust Board have been involved in several areas of education and communication with outside and local groups during the past months. We hosted a visit from the Board of Nga Manu Sanctuary recently and were privileged to lunch at the old Wilton farmhouse. This visit followed a similar one early this year to Nga Manu in Waikanae, a trip I would recommend if you are near Waikanae in the next few months.

We also submitted a substantial response to the Draft Biodiversity strategy put out by Wellington City Council (document available from WCC website). This document sets out the overall action plan to maintain and improve the biodiversity in the Wellington area over the next five years. Otari-Wilton's Bush plays a key role in this plan and the Board emphasised this in its submission.

The Board is in the process of working through an application to the Charities Commission and would expect registration this calendar year.

A new logo which you see on this newsletter will now be used on Trust communications. It is derived from the Centenary logo and is based on the rewarewa flower.

We are also working on several initiatives to improve the visitor experience so talk to our weekend hosts or the Board about any improvements you could see as useful.

Have a great Christmas and safe New Year.

Phil Parnell

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## **Manager's Otari Report**

Report to Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust  
November 2007

Hi everyone,

Summer may be nearly upon us but that hasn't stopped stormy southerlies from blowing across Otari over the past month. There have been some trees blown over as a result of the high winds recently. One of the trees to fall was a large tawa near Wilton house which may have been at least a couple of hundred years old; such is the fate of large trees in windy Wellington! On the plus side, this has created light gaps in the forest where we will plant several tall emergent tree species next year.

Spring has also brought the usual flush of growth and the team here have been busy with pruning, mowing and curtailing the onset of weeds. Recently there has been an ongoing renovation outside the Information Centre on Wilton Road, which has just been planted. This will be an ongoing effort along the Wilton Road front from the Banks entrance right along to the Wilton bowling club entrance area, making this 'shop front' area of Otari more continuous and identifiable to visitors and passers by.

Robyn Smith has resigned from her part time position here as nursery propagator. Robyn was working on duplicating plants from Arnold and Ruth Dench, who have an extensive private collection of New Zealand plants. Robyn also cast her eye over the nursery once a week to help with the running of it, and we will miss her experienced input with this. She has gone to work full time at Greater Wellington, co-ordinating volunteer groups around the Wellington region.

Wellington Botanic Gardens has accepted an opportunity to hold a touring photographic exhibition entitled Herbarium Amoris, a tribute to Carl Linnaeus, the founder of modern taxonomy. Taxonomy is the science of classifying living organisms, and one of Linnaeus' students, Daniel Solander, visited New Zealand with Captain James Cook aboard the HMS Endeavour to classify New Zealand plants new to Western science.

As well as the exhibition at the Botanic Gardens, a self-guided trail commemorating Daniel Solander and taxonomy will run concurrently at Otari (with a similar trail at the Botanic Gardens). Herbarium Amoris and the Solander Trail will be running from 14 December 2007 to 10 February 2008.

I hope you can make it to both gardens to participate in these exciting events.

Regards,

Rewi Elliot  
Curator/Manager  
Otari-Wilton's Bush  
Phone: 475 3245

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If you are not on our email list but have an email address and would like to get occasional email messages from the Trust, please email [mccomishparadise.net.nz](mailto:mccomishparadise.net.nz) to let Johanne McComish know the address you would like messages sent to.

## **Visit the Herbarium Amoris - Herbarium of Love.**

This photographic exhibition will be at the Treehouse Visitor Centre, Wellington Botanic Gardens from December 14 until 10 February, 2008 – Free entry. This is a tribute to Carl Linnaeus the Swedish botanist, who created the naming system for plants 300 years ago. This is the only New Zealand opportunity to see Swedish photographer Edvard Kionberg's tribute to Carl Linnaeus. (See Jock Fleming's article about Linnaeus, and an invitation to a public lecture pp 5-6.)

## **Summer Gathering**

The Trust is holding a barbecue at the Troup Picnic Ground on Sunday, 27 January. We look forward to seeing many of our members there. We will gather after the monthly walk which that day is going to wander along the Kaiwharawhara Valley, through the revegetation project. If you are not going on the walk come along to join us at 4pm – bring your own food and drink

## **Help - Volunteer Hosts needed**

Would you like to join the amazing group of Volunteer Hosts? In the weekend when no paid staff are on duty volunteers do a wonderful job, welcoming visitors, answering questions and helping with any problems.

In March we will be running another training session for new hosts. This will involve one day where some botanical training will be given and another day spent discussing other matters such as Council policies, history and possible scenarios that can arise.

Hosts are on duty in pairs for 2 and 1/2 hours once every 5-6 weeks.

If you are interested please ring Margaret Crimp, 475 3263 or Sue Usher, 479 6857

## **Courses at Otari in 2008**

These courses are the result of collaboration between Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust and Onslow College Adult & Community Education. All courses are based at Otari Information Centre, Wilton Road. To enrol for these courses phone Onslow College 477 1118 or email [commed@onslow.school.nz](mailto:commed@onslow.school.nz)

### **What Native Plant is That?**

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. 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 - Wilton's Bush. It starts on Wednesday 27 February. Cost is \$60

### **Otari Wilton's Bush Talks and Walks.**

This continues our series of short courses comprising a Wednesday evening talk, and a practical workshop/walk the following Saturday.

## **Introduction to Forest Fungi**

This course will introduce you to the fascinating and colourful world of fungi, and their role in the New Zealand bush. Alison Stringer is a mycologist who took part in the recent Bioblitz at Otari-Wilson's bush. The evening talk on Wednesday will be followed by a "fungi foray" through Otari-Wilson's bush on Saturday. Wednesday 16 April 7-9pm and Saturday 19 April from 10am. Cost \$30.

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## **Linnaeus in his own time and in ours.** A Public Lecture.

To be given by Emeritus Professor, Bengt Jonsell, Professor Bergianus (of botany) The lecture will examine Linnaeus' heritage today, from his pragmatic and complete sexual system for plant classification and his theoretical and fragmentary natural method, through developments by Adanson, DeCandolle, and Engler, to modern Floras and the new APG angiosperm classification. Early botanists in Australasia, Linnaean disciple Daniel Solander (Cook's first expedition) and Robert Brown, were influential.

**Wednesday 12 December 2007 at 6pm.** Hunter Council Chamber, Level 2 , Hunter Building, Gate 1 or 2, Kelburn Parade, Wellington

Email [vivian.wei@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vivian.wei@vuw.ac.nz) with 'Jonsell' in the subject line (acceptances only) or contact Vivian Wei on 0-4-463 5791 to register your interest in attending

## **Carlos Linnaeus**

### **2007 the tercentenary of his birth**

**Carlos Linnaeus** ( 1707 -- 1778 ) was a renowned naturalist / physician who developed a coherent system for describing, classifying, and naming living organisms.

The Linnaean system, which is still in use, has allowed amateurs and professionals, worldwide to identify, name, describe and compare plants and animals.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Linnaean classification and naming of living and inorganic matter enabled an enormous increase in the development of natural history as a science. Natural history then was placed alongside other sciences, such as physics, which had dominated during the previous century. Since the period of Linnaeus, natural history -- the study of plants, animals and minerals -- has splintered into numerous components. Nevertheless, the high regard given most of his research, studies and their applications have held for 250 years, despite modifications which he expected and encouraged.

In his lifetime Linnaeus named approximately 4,000 species of animals and 7,700 species of plants, as well as writing about 180 manuscripts, detailing his travels and life, as a student, a naturalist, a physician and as a respected academic.

During this year, the tercentenary of Linnaeus's birth, there have been celebrations worldwide.

Thousands of projects have been undertaken, including lectures, exhibitions, seminars, and demonstrations. These again confirm his ranking as one of the most influential scientists in history. Few in the 18th century held his extremely broad perspective and holistic view of nature.

In Linnaeus's lifetime the natural world was relatively untouched. This is no longer the case.

His tercentenary has been an opportunity to focus on the destruction of our biodiversity, the urgency of conservation, and the need to reconsider the funding of tools, which will prevent further loss of our biodiversity.

For example -- taxonomy is one supporting science which is in need of greater support, within academic departments, and in the community.

With the wide benefits developed from the study and application of natural history, and the reputation Linnaeus had gained within the scientific community, many of his graduate students (his 'apostles' as they were called) were invited to join worldwide expeditions and voyages of discovery that were being held during his lifetime.

Daniel Solander was employed by Joseph Banks and joined James Cook's first voyage to the Pacific on board the *Endeavour*. Solander Is., off the south island was named after him. Anders Sparrman was recruited by the naturalists Johann and Georg Forster to assist with research (1) and joined James Cook's second circumnavigation (1772-1775). The two boats were the Resolution and Adventure.

With the respect that his 'apostles' had for their teacher, many sent back to Linnaeus samples and descriptions gathered during their expeditions.

The Swedish Institute, the University of Uppsala, and many other organizations have actively promoted the Linnaean tercentenary in his homeland. At the present time in Sweden a 20year project is underway to describe all the multi-celled living organisms in the country. These will be scientifically investigated, described and illustrated.

In England the Linnean Society of London has been the centre for this celebration.

Some years after his death, Linnaeus's widow sold most of his collections, manuscripts, and some of his 180 publications to Sir J.E. Smith who was then president of the Linnean Society of London. When he died, the Society purchased these, and they still remain their property. Today this Society is widely acknowledged as an international centre for the study of Natural History in all its branches.

Dr. Leonard Cockayne, the founding Director of the Otari Open-Air Native Plant Museum (opened in 1926), was a member of the Linnean Society of London.

In New Zealand the Otago University Library mounted a comprehensive exhibition of material and publications related to Linnaeus. This extremely valuable exhibition ran through July 2007 and until the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2007, entitled '*Linnaeus, Prince of Botanist: His works and Legacy*' It contained 18 cabinets and 7 wall descriptions. Unfortunately this was unable to tour, but its details are available on its website (2).

Publications in NZ journals have supported this event. A very colourful description was written by a retired taxonomist and published in the NZ Geographic (3).

What of the future ? The general consensus seems to be that DNA bar-coding can supplement but cannot replace the science of classification based on observation characteristics, promoted by Linnaeus in the 18<sup>th</sup>. century.

(1) Dawson J.W. Dr. 'The Forsters, Father and Son, Naturalists on Cook's Second Voyage' 6 pages ( this is a detailed and very interesting paper ).

(2) Otago University Library website: [www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions](http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/exhibitions)

(3) NZ Geographic No. 86 July-August 2007. Pg 92 – 101. 'The Second Adam'

written by : *Kennedia Warnus*

*Jock Fleming.*

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## **Wild Orchids of the lower North Island Field Guide 2007**

written and designed by Peter de Lange, Jeremy Rolfe, Ian St George and John Sawyer.



Published by Department of Conservation

The Board has for sale a limited number of copies, \$13 a copy. Contact Jocelyn Hoskin, 475 8696.

### **Notice to members.**

The Nga Uruora group who are doing a great deal of native revegetation on the Kapiti Coast, have hundreds of Christmas trees for sale – at a very reasonable price. If any of our members are interested please phone Fergus Wheeler 04 / 905 65 83, or email [nukapiti@hotmail.com](mailto:nukapiti@hotmail.com)

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### ***Muehlenbeckia axillaris***

#### **pohuehue, mountain pohuehue**

This is a prostrate mat forming plant of montane and subalpine riverbeds and stony places. It forms a low growing dense mat up to about 15 cm high and about a metre across. Foliage is dark green, with spring growth rather lighter. Flowers are tiny, cream to pale green; the seed is a shiny black achene borne on fleshy white tepals. *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* can be seen growing in the Brockie rock garden next to the lawn.

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# 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) .....

<b>Subscription</b>	Corporate	\$30	\$
	Double/Family	\$15	\$
	Individual	\$10	\$
	Student/Unwaged	\$5	\$
<b>Donation*</b>			\$
<b>Total payment</b>	(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
- Hosting at the Information centre
- Guiding



( ) Historical Research

**Please send this completed form with your cheque to:**

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