

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views March, 2008

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)
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 each month. See page 7. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044</p>
<p>Sunday 9 March 2pm</p>	<p>This is part of the Stepping Out programme. The Nature Trail 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>Sunday 30 March 9am</p>	<p>Tunnel Gully. 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>
<p>Sunday 22 April 2pm</p>	<p>Plants that poison, maim and kill. Meet at the Otari Information Centre at 2 pm. <i>Leader Rewi Elliot.</i></p>
<p>Sunday 25 May 2pm</p>	<p>A fungal foray at Otari. Meet at the Information Centre at 2pm. Leader: <i>Alison Stringer.</i></p>

Chairman's Report

I hope that members have had a chance to enjoy the great Wellington summer weather, and took a walk in Otari-Wilton's Bush. The gardens have been busy over summer and a number of tours have been run by our guides and hosts. The latest of these was from the Queen Victoria cruise ship a recent visitor to Wellington.

We have also had a large tree fall over in one of recent brief storms. This was on the circular walk near the bridge to the waterfall. Such wood as was easily removable has been done by WCC tree specialists and Otari-Wilton's Bush staff. This has been given to local wood turners in return for donations to the trust. Our thanks to Athol Swann for the arrangements.

Our volunteers have been busy releasing plants in the revegetation plots and trying to make an impression on the weeds that threaten plantings made in these areas. Any help you can give on Saturday 1 March or any Thursday morning would help to make a difference.

The Board has been asked to provide input to a Landscape Development plan currently underway for Otari-Wilton's Bush. There will be a meeting on Monday 3rd March and any interested Trust member is welcome. Let myself or Margaret Crimp know of your attendance and we will send you relevant information.

The Bioblitz display is now up at the information Centre and if you didn't see it at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea make sure you look next time you are at Otari-Wilton's Bush.

As I write this the NZ Festival of the Arts has begun and I would recommend a visit to the ShapeShifter outdoor sculpture exhibition at the Dowse gallery and Civic gardens in Lower Hutt . There is work from some of New Zealand's top artists in a garden setting

As you will read there are other initiatives underway from your Board and we are looking for new Board members for the AGM as we have had two resign during the current year.

My thanks to both Johanne McComish and Maggy Wassilieff for all the work they have done for Otari-Wilton's Bush.

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

Phil Parnell

Otari Report

Happenings at Otari

Dear All.

The big news at Otari is that Rewi is away in India for 7 weeks and from all reports he and the family are enjoying, despite the odd tummy upset, the kaleidoscope that is the sub-continent. We look forward to the stories and the slideshow on his return.

Well it certainly has been dry for the last couple of months and staff have been busy irrigating the collections. The bush, though dry, has thankfully not been suffering to any great extent yet, like it

did back in 2003. However, high winds on the afternoon of January 22 brought down a large rewarewa across the lower circular track.

Unfortunately Mick Parsons has resigned from his position at Otari.

Mick will be really missed as his knowledge, enthusiasm and contribution for the work here was immeasurable. Thanks Mick and all the best. Smokos will not be so lively with out you.

PS The good news is that Mick has already returned to do some volunteer work.

Dean Bowden has joined the staff on a part time basis. Dean brings lots of horticultural know-how with him and is filling the gap now that Mick has gone.

The last few weeks have highlighted the importance of the special conservation role that Otari plays. DOC Masterton, uplifted 200 *Olearia gardneri* plants we have grown for them for a restoration programme in the Wairarapa and Landcare Lincoln requested plant material of an *Olearia gardneri* we have in the collections that is believed to be extinct in the Hawkes Bay. Also, duplicate alpines propagated at Otari from the Druce collection were returned to Percy's Scenic Reserve. Otari's conservation role is not just plants. A scientist from Harvard University studying New Zealand soil fauna visited and found 3 peripatus under rotting logs adjacent to the Wilton Walkway Lookout. This was great news as staff have not seen any for some time and none were found in last year's Bioblitz.

Mustelid and rat monitoring was carried out late January. Rat and mice sign was within expected levels while one stoat was recorded. An increase in possum sign was noted and possum and bait stations were promptly refilled. A big thanks goes out to RAMBO volunteers who are regularly coming in and filling the mustelid /rat traps. This is vital work and will be having an enormously beneficial effect on the flora and native fauna of the forest.

Some members may not know that Otari staff maintain the gardens at Te Papa. Twice weekly visits ensure that Bush City and the surrounding gardens are kept spic and span. One of the advantages of this is it raises the profile of Otari in the outside world

The gardens do present some challenges e.g. families of Mallard ducks in the swamp garden, and the occasional trampling and vandalism of the external gardens.

Tim O'Leary.
Collection Curator.

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.
Peter Buxton	Phone: 472 3456	jbuxton@paradise.net.nz
Wilbur Dovey	Phone: 499 1044	cweag.dovey@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

VOLUNTEER HOST TRAINING DAYS

Calling anyone who enjoys meeting people and who has a passion for Otari We need more weekend hosts. Hosting involves 2.5 hours every 4 or 5 weeks.

Training is provided and training days are coming up.

When: Saturday 15 March, 10am to 2.30pm.

Saturday 12 April, 10am to 1pm.

**Where: Otari Information Centre,
160 Wilton Road.**

For more information Phone: Margaret Crimp on: 475 3263

Or you can email Margaret at: m.crimp@xtra.co.nz

The Trust Annual General Meeting.

This important meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14 May at 7.15pm. At this meeting there will be the election of Trustees. We would be delighted to hear from any member who is interested in becoming a Trustee. For more information contact Phil Parnell or Margaret Crimp.

His First Eighty Years

Dr. John Dawson -- *botanist - educator - author*

Dr. Dawson's eightieth birthday was celebrated at Otari on the 1st of February 2008. Members of the Trust, their friends, the Otari and WCC staff gathered to acknowledge his outstanding contribution to Otari and to the dissemination of knowledge and appreciation of native plants.

Professor Gunnar Broberg, Professor of the History of Science and Ideas, at Lund University, wrote a concise account of the great Swedish natural scientist, Carl Linnaeus. This was presented to Dr. Dawson at his birthday celebration, with the inscription:

To Dr. John Dawson on the occasion of your 80th. birthday,
and in recognition of your contribution to the botanical world of Carl Linnaeus.
On behalf of the Kingdom of Sweden,
I congratulate you.
Signed: William P. Jeffries
Hon. Consul – General of Sweden. 1.02.2008

Looking back at Dr. Dawson's voluntary work, his publications and input at the very beginning of the Otari Trust, we must agree wholeheartedly.

The Trust had its origins in a steering committee, which later formalised a Trust Deed. Dr. Dawson was one of the initiators of this working group. His botanical knowledge was crucial in providing the Trust with the focus it required to gain acceptance. He convinced us that the purpose of the Trust should be education about native flora, in the widest sense. His view was that we should include some understanding of their environmental importance, ecology, and conservation. He reminded us that Otari-Wilton's Bush had a unique botanic diversity and heritage that should be recognised and protected. These ideas were developed to become the principal purpose of the Trust Deed. Dr. Dawson during his working life had an association with Otari-Wilton's Bush long before community support was established.

He has made a life long study of New Zealand native plants. One outcome of this has been the publication of books and scientific papers on New Zealand plants from our coastline to our inland mountains.

Since 1962 he has also undertaken botanical research in New Caledonia and has visited there 20 times. He studied New Caledonian species related to New Zealand species and in particular those of the genus *Metrosideros*, which includes the ratas and pohutukawa in New Zealand. He was later asked by the Natural History Museum in Paris to study the family, Myrtaceae, to which *Metrosideros* belongs, for their long series of volumes on the Flora of New Caledonia. Myrtaceae is the largest plant family in New Caledonia and two volumes on it have appeared and a third and last is well advanced.

In the year 2000 he was awarded the **Dunmore Medal** by the Alliance Francaise of New Zealand. This award is presented to those who make a significant contribution to French culture, history or science in the Pacific.

Dr. Dawson retired in 1988 as Associate Professor of Botany at Victoria University of Wellington.

On Wednesday the 16th. of May 2001 he was presented with Wellington's Absolutely Positive **Award by the Mayor**, in the presence of the full Council, friends, relatives and Otari Trust members.

The citation mentioned much of what is written here but did make the point that "Dr. Dawson believes it is important that conservation should not be just an appeal to the emotions, but also be based on real knowledge about what we want to conserve and why. His work in sharing his enthusiasm and expert knowledge with thousands of Wellingtonians, over the years, has certainly brought this vision closer to reality".

At that time Dr. Dawson was Chairman of the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust for one year. He then returned to the authorship of further publications, focussing still on plants and their habitats. Like his Swedish predecessor, Dr. Dawson is an enthusiastic botanic educator. For many years he has given Continuing Education courses, talks and seminars to a wide range of groups and societies.

In addition he has escorted many groups into forest reserves, and through the special New Zealand native plant collections nurtured in the Otari gardens. Some of the NZ groups have come from

outside Wellington, and there have been many from overseas. The native forest reserves have included those in Waikanae, Kaitoke, Wainui-o-mata, and elsewhere. These excursions have been regular over the last eight years, and would now number well over one hundred guided tours. They have been varied. - for example, to demonstrate a special group of native plants and their habitat (the Kauri plantation, the pukatea grove, the kohekohe cluster, vines, ferns, perching plants, etc.) or those that have a special conservation interest (threatened, endangered or rare native plants).

At regular intervals he has conducted a series of 'plant identification workshops'. At these participants are provided with named specimens of native plants with their distinctive features provided. Later they are taken out into the garden collections or forest to see the specimens in their natural state. Dr. Dawson's voluntary contributions have done much to support the acceptance of Otari-Wilton's Bush as a National Garden of Significance by the New Zealand National Garden Trust.

What of the future?. Dr. Dawson has said that there are many who are interested in learning more about their 'natural environment'. Some are special interest groups, for instance those who would like to understand and know more about how Maori used native plants as food, medicine, and for building. Other groups would enjoy short courses focussed on other special groups of plants or New Zealand plants as a whole.

We are grateful to Dr. Dawson for his leading role in establishing the study of native plants in our community. We also acknowledge his distinguished writings, which have received national and international recognition.

Bibliography: Books:

Dawson, John. **Forest Vines to Snow Tussocks: The Story of New Zealand Plants** (1988)

Dawson, John. (Brian Enting – photos). **Seasons in the Forest** (1990)

Dawson, John. (Rob Lucas – photos). **Lifestyles of New Zealand Forest Plants** (1993)

Dawson, John. (Rob Lucas – photos). **New Zealand Coast and Mountain Plants** (1996) -- Awarded the *Natural Heritage Prize*

Dawson, John. (Rob Lucas – photos). **Nature Guide to the New Zealand Forest** (2000).

Dawson, John. (Rob Lucas – photos). **The Nature of Plants: Habitats, Challenges, and Adaptations** (2005)

Dr. Dawson has contributed two volumes to a multi-volume series on the **Flora of New Caledonia**. A third and last volume is nearing completion.

Dr. Dawson at present is fairly advanced on a new book on New Zealand native trees.

Scientific and popular articles.

Dr. Dawson, during his career, has published about 70 scientific and popular articles, mostly about New Zealand native plants but also about plants from New Caledonia and elsewhere, and about exploration in the Pacific.

Jock Fleming

Advances on Education facility at Otari Wilton's Bush

The Trustees have been discussing options for delivery of educational tours or interpretive walks for primary school students with a number of interested groups, including Wellington City Council, Forest and Bird, and professionals in the education area.

It seems there is currently a lack of these services in Wellington, and there may be an opening for some of this material to be delivered at Otari. Currently we are working on obtaining funding for a full time educator position, to start later in 2008. If you have ideas about this area of work, or would like to know more about what we're hoping to achieve, please contact Susan Waugh s.waugh@sextant-technology.net

A brochure has been prepared on developing an education centre. Any people interested in seeing this can email Margaret Crimp m.crimp@xtra.co.nz for a pdf file.

Reveg News

The early spring rain followed by warm weather helped the trees planted during the Kaiwharawhara revegetation programme up to 2006 to grow well this summer.

Saturday plant care volunteers, also helped by the Thursday volunteers on occasions, have concentrated on weed control over the summer with broom and latterly convolvulus being the main focus of work as well as freeing up some of the smaller trees from grass growth around them.

The January walk organised by the Trust on Sunday 27 June toured the 21 revegetation sites in the Kaiwharawhara Valley. It was good to see some of the early volunteers who did the original planting come along to admire what has become of their hard work.

We would welcome more volunteers for the Saturday plant care group. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 9am at the Information Centre from where we set off for 2 hours of work followed by a cup of tea. Bring gloves and any implements you think you might need like loppers, saws etc. There may be a possibility of us doing some infill planting during the winter.

Contact Wilbur Dovey 499 1044.

Dog Walkers

It's been great to see that most dog-owners walking in Otari are now keeping them on a lead as requested. But there are still some who ignore the signs posted at the entrances and by the Kaiwharawhara stream. If you see someone whose dog is not on a lead, please remind them that it's a requirement; that there are good reasons for it (no matter how small or slow the dog) - such as the danger to birds, and possum baits around that could affect their dog if swallowed. Thanks!

Obituary - A. Lindsay Poole, CBE, D.Sc.

1908-2008

Forester and botanist (Alick) Lindsay Poole died in Wellington on the 2nd January 2008, aged 99 years. He is survived by his wife Barbara, his son Michael and daughter Jacqueline, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

With his death, New Zealand lost one of its greatest advocates for our forests and trees.

His working life started in 1926 - as a trainee with the New Zealand State Forestry Nursey at Whakarewarewa. He received a scholarship to attend Auckland University College Forestry School

and graduated B. For. Sc. in 1930. In 1947 Lindsay was appointed Assistant Director of Botany Division, DSIR, and became its Director in 1949. He undertook a study of New Zealand beeches for his masterate during this period and was awarded his M.Sc from Victoria University in 1948.

In 1949 he took part in the New Zealand-American Fiordland Expedition centred around the Caswell and George Sounds where wapiti were established. Red deer were also present and Lindsay studied the effect these two types of deer (and their hybrids) were having on the vegetation. He rejoined the New Zealand Forest Service in 1951 as its Assistant Director General, a position he held for 10 years before becoming Director General in 1961. These were busy years as forestry was coming of age in New Zealand. The down-stream industries that used timber were in place. Lindsay oversaw the second cycle of radiata planting, supported the expansion of the research arm of the Service, fought for effective control of deer in the forests and became acquainted with the ways of politicians.

In his spare time he completed the manuscript for *Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*. This identification guide to the largest and most obvious native plants in New Zealand has been a perennial best-seller since it first appeared in 1963. Botanical artist Nancy M. Adams supplied the line illustrations and Lindsay provided clear, concise descriptions that could be easily followed by the reader.

Lindsay proved to be a popular and effective Director. He took over from a long-serving director who had an abrupt and antagonistic manner. When Lindsay retired from the Forest Service in 1971, it was in good heart, with strong management in place, a growing timber resource on hand and staffed with a well-qualified work force.

Golf was at the fore-front of Lindsay's retirement plans. He had been a good golfer in his younger days, reaching the final of the Rotorua Open in 1934. He set about building a retirement home at Otaki and planned on spending some time on the local golf course. But it was not to be, for he was asked to chair the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council. The council oversaw the work of

the 20 Catchment Boards throughout the country who played a critical role in protecting New Zealanders from floods, and safe-guarded the nation's soil and freshwater resources. He served as Chair for 9 years and upon his second retirement wrote up the history of catchment control in New Zealand.

Then his nightmare years arrived. In the mid 1980s the Government dismantled the Forest Service, sold the nation's plantation forests for a song to private interests and belittled the extraordinary work he and his fellow foresters had achieved. In 1998, Mr Poole wrote of this period and his decision in 1951 to rejoin the Forest Service as Assistant Director,

"If it had been possible to foresee happenings of the future,...the extraordinary events, politically engineered, leading to the demise of the Forest Service,...the separation of production from protection forest and the "Sale of the Century" (privatisation of commercial State forests), I would never, for one moment, have wasted time applying for the position. I do not believe that anybody could have foreseen such a sequence of purblind events."

(Lindsay Poole 1998: Trees, Timber and Tranquillity, p. 58)

Lindsay wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister cautioning against the dismantling of the Forest Service, but his letter had no effect. He subsequently wrote papers and chapters in books outlining the problems with the new management (or lack of management) of New Zealand's forests.

It is one of the tragedies of Mr Poole's life however, that the politicians of the last few decades failed to heed his warnings about their mismanagement of New Zealand's exotic and native forests.

His long involvement in New Zealand forestry and botany afforded him a unique perspective that will never be experienced again.

His fellow foresters and scientists did not disregard his work, though. In 1999 the University of Canterbury awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree and the New Zealand Institute of Forestry awarded him the Thomas Kirk medal in 2002 for his contribution to scientific forestry. Lindsay was the author of some 70 scientific papers and popular articles on trees, forests and catchments. He authored or co-authored 6 books on these topics, too.

Mr Poole was a member of the Otari-Wilton Bush Trust and in 2003 planted a rimu in the cultivar border, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the NZ Institute of Forestry

For those of us who learnt their native plants by means of Poole & Adams and wandered into forests a generation or two after Mr Poole retired, we can be so grateful that he took the time to document his memories and knowledge of New Zealand's forests in his books and many papers. They make for enriching reading and provide a valuable insight of the many forces (natural and political) that have an impact on New Zealand's ecosystems.

Maggy Wassilieff
February 2008

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

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

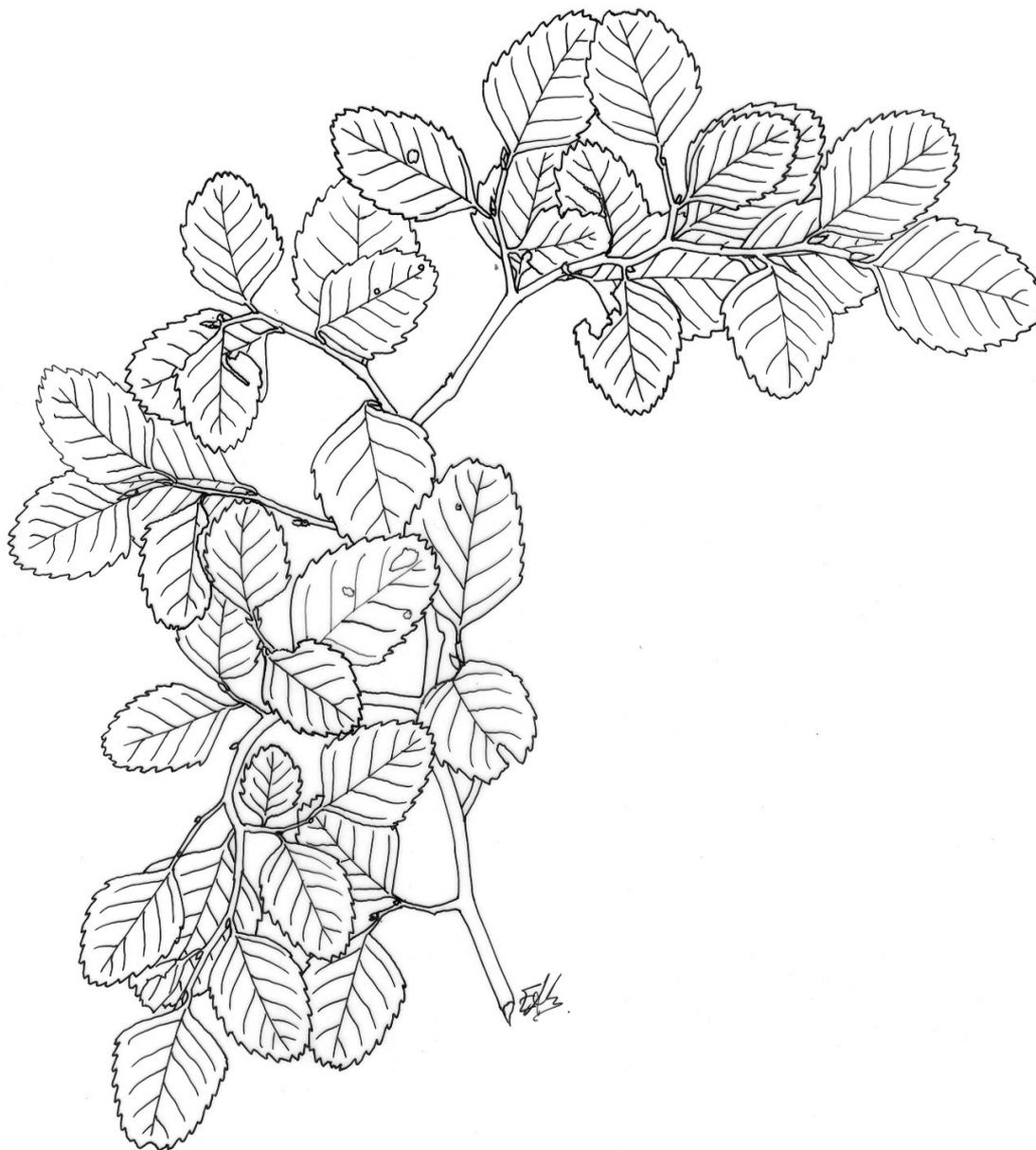
This course will introduce you to the fascinating and colourful world of fungi, and their role in the New Zealand bush. Alison Stringer is a mycologist who took part in the recent Bioblitz at Otari-Wilson's bush. The evening talk on Wednesday will be followed by a "fungi foray" through Otari-Wilson's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

Nothofagus truncata

hard beech, tawhairaunui

Hard beech is a canopy tree to 30m, found from sea level to 900m and from Mangonui to Greymouth and the Wairau River, with a gap in the distribution - it is not found in Taranaki or the Central North Island. The trunk can get to 2 metres diameter, and is often buttressed. Seeds are a nut, and dispersal is by falling off the tree, so as with all beech forest spread is a slow process. Hard beech can be seen in the beech tree area at Otari, though it has not yet reached its full potential!

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:

- Work parties
- Administration
- Historical Research
- Hosting at the Information centre
- Guiding

Please send this completed form with your cheque to:

The
Office
16
West