

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views June, 2009

Web site: www.otari100.org.nz For all walks meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane unless otherwise stated. Unless otherwise stated walks are free to Trust members, otherwise \$3. 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 each month. Also Thursdays 8.30am. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044
Sunday 28 June 2pm	Walk and talk: Stan Reid's plots reviewed again: Changes in tree abundance- succession or possum control? This will be a talk and walk around the plots established by Stan Reid in the 1930s. These plots have been analysed again recently by a graduate student who has noted changes in tree abundance. Is this due to succession or possum control? 2 hours. Easy, but with some steps. <i>Leader: Sandra Clarke</i>
Sunday 26 July 2pm	Walk and talk: Step out and step back - Otari as seen by Job Wilton. Job and Ellen Wilton came to the backblocks of Wellington in 1860. Bush, bush and more bush - just as well they liked it. Come and walk in their shoes for a while – followed by a colonial afternoon tea 2 hours. Easy. <i>Leader: Kay Poynton.</i>
Tuesday 28 July 7.30pm	Seminar in the Information Centre: Dr. Cliff Atkins , VUW, will speak on Wellington rocks with reference to Otari. See page 4 for details.
Sunday 23 August 2pm	Walk: "Treasure Trail" at Otari OTARI TREASURE TRAIL * (The treasures are plants; just for looking at) This trail is an easy walk along the upper level at Otari, not far from Wilton Road. At the north end it begins in Job Wilton's reserve of original forest and, going via the Information Centre and Canopy Walkway, ends at the Lookout with an extensive view of native forest ("bush"), both original and secondary. This type of native forest is notable for the many features it shares with tropical rainforests. All the plant species we are highlighting along this walk are native only to New Zealand. 1 - 1.5 hours. Easy. <i>Leader: John Dawson</i>
Friday 4 September 7.30pm	Glow Worm Trail Take a look at night life in the native forest, down to the Kaiwharawhara stream. <i>Leader: Dave Burton.</i> See page 2 for details.
Saturday 5 September 9.30am	Field Trip Otari- Cockayne's impact on the natural areas Arranged by the Wellington Botanical Society. See page 3 for details. <i>Leader Rodney Lewington 970 3142.</i>

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

Following the AGM of the trust we are now well into the winter period for the gardens. The Trust Board remains the same as it ended last year with two new members joining and contributing to our work during 2008.

The Board has been involved in making submissions to the Wellington City Council draft long term plan and three members made oral submissions reinforcing Otari-Wilton's Bush place in the Botanic Gardens group and in the wider national scene. We are hopeful that they can maintain the current operational budgets for the next three year period and commence some aspects of the landscape plan.

The landscape plan will go out for public submissions in the next month somewhat later than hoped. I urge members to review the plan and the Trust will have full size A3 copies available for members to peruse. We will advise logistics when submissions open.

Our submission to the Lottery Board for the completion and printing of a heritage map and booklet of Otari-Wilton's Bush was successful and this is in final stages now. There has already been keen interest in these documents and a number of members were able to see these at the AGM. Our April walk was based on some of this material and there are further walks/talks in the pipeline.

The recent fungal foray walk in very wintry conditions went ahead and was successful. Those who turned up helped to find a number of species during the afternoon enjoying the company of Geoff Ridley and Alison Stringer our resident mycologists.

Winter sees fewer visitors to the park but there have certainly been some busy days when weather is good. Rewi and his team are making good progress on the rain shadow garden and new path. We look forward to the new arrangements being in place for the spring and summer.

Thanks once again to all our volunteers and we look forward to seeing you at Otari-Wilton's Bush in the near future.

Regards
Phil Parnell

Glow Worm Walks

Friday 4 September, 2 October 7.30 p.m. *Leader – Dave Burton*

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. 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 Report

Hello everyone,

Winter certainly arrived in a hurry this year with cold southerlies and decidedly un-tropical downpours. Rain is of course very good for planting and we have begun some revegetation planting with helpful volunteers.

Staff have been busy extending the rainshadow border adjacent to the Otari school field. A new main path through this garden will be open from mid June. The changes extend the small braided river section of the garden downward by nearly 20 metres. The garden represents braided rivers such as the Rakaia and Waimakariri, and will be planted with a range of plants illustrating the vegetation east of the Southern Alps in the Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago regions which experience the Fohn effect of the Southern Alps. A great example of how landscapes affect climate and plant life.

In March Dave and I collected plants throughout Northland. This was a very successful trip. Approximately 40 species were collected and we met with private landowners, DOC and QEII staff in the area. The cuttings and seeds we collected are beginning to strike and germinate. We have even had some *Alseuosmia* species flowering, filling the propagation house with their pleasant aroma (this sure is one NZ plant that is not planted enough in gardens). Most of the plants collected will be planted into the 38° garden (the former Wild Garden). The title of this garden reflects a botanical boundary that Leonard Cockayne noted in New Zealand at 38° south. For some plants this latitude is about as southern as they naturally grow, including kauri which will feature in this garden.

Recently two colleagues in the plant conservation field and I made a couple of trips to gather *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii* which is critically threatened in the Wellington region. We visited two areas spotting fewer than 20 plants in all. Not all plants were large enough to propagate from, but several dozen cuttings were taken. The resulting plants will be grown in Otari, the Botanic Gardens and the Karori Sanctuary, and planted back into the wild. It was great to make some progress with this species, but what also made these trips for me was that the two people I went with were from the Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington Regional Council. With Wellington City Council as my employer, we had a trio of local, regional and central government battling for Kirk's daisy. We now look forward to continuing this work with other species.

At the end of winter comes spring and our annual Otari open day. This year's open day is on Saturday 19 September at the end of the Department of Conservation's conservation week. The theme for conservation week this year is 'get involved' and celebrates people like you who contribute to conservation by supporting and being involved with places like Otari.

Enjoy the rest of winter everyone.

Rewi Elliot
Curator/Manager Otari-Wilton's Bush

**Wellington Botanical Society is organising a field trip to Otari.
Otari- Cockayne's impact on the natural areas.**

Anyone is welcome to come along.

A little history and quite a bit of botanising. We will start with a short talk on what Cockayne and Andy McKay did in Otari between 1926 and 1933. Then follow up on this by spending the day botanising the bush areas in Otari-Wilton's Bush, identifying the paths by the names they used, discovering the remnants of their plantings and considering what regeneration has occurred. We will have the plant list from the bioblitz as a starter to see if we can add any native vascular species. If you have a GPS receiver please bring it along.

Saturday 5 September, starts 9.30am at the Otari-Wilton's Bush Education Centre.

Leader Rodney Lewington 970 3142

At the Trust Board Annual General Meeting, held on May 13, 2009, 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	93 Amritsar St, Khandallah landy@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 479 2239
Secretary: Margaret Crimp:	167 Wilton Rd., Wilton	Phone: 475 3263 m.crimp@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer. Jocelyn Hoskin	14 Warwick St, Wilton jocelynhoskin@clear.net.nz	Phone: 475 8696
Peter Buxton jbuxton@paradise.net.nz	106 Weld St, Wadestown	Phone: 472 3456
Wilbur Dovey cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz	40 Warwick St., Wilton	Phone: 499 1044
Geoffrey Moss	7 Dorset Way, Wilton moss@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 472 8226
John Shrapnell	27 Hanover St., Wadestown shrapnell@clear.net.nz	Phone: 473 7128
Susan Waugh-Filippi	116 Wilton Rd. Wilton. susan@closeburn.org	Phone: 976 4227
Cathy Wylie	43 Huntleigh Park Way, Ngaio. cathy.wylie@nzcer.org.nz	Phone: 938 6498

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. davee@paradise.net.nz

Wellington Rocks!!

Winter Seminar - Tuesday July 28, 7.30pm

The rocks and landscape of Wellington hold insights to a remarkable geological history spanning hundreds of millions of years. Dr. Cliff Atkins from Victoria University will present a fascinating seminar on "reading the rocks" with a special emphasis on the Otari area, piecing together the story of how the rocks formed and how they have been moved, uplifted, deformed and carved into the landscape we see today. Gold coin donation.

Otari Awards

Earlier this year the Board decided to present awards for distinguished volunteer service at Otari – Wilton’s Bush to show appreciation of their work. Nominations were called for in the last newsletter. A sub committee considered the nominations received.

At the AGM the inaugural awards were presented to four members in recognition of the work they have done for the Trust over the years. The recipients were:

Athol Swann: Athol was a founding member of the Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust. More recently as Chairman he has guided the financial stability of the Trust and has been a keen host and volunteer for a wide range of activities.

Jock Fleming: Jock was a founding member of the Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust . He was instrumental in the noted Kaiwharawhara stream revegetation project for the Trust.

John Dawson: John was a founding member of Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust . He has acted as its Chief guide and has been responsible for the successful tour and walks program.

Margaret Crimp: Margaret was a founding member of the Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust. Margaret has been the secretary since day one and has been responsible for the active hosting and guiding programs.

Open Day - Plant Sale.

This event is being held this year on Saturday, 19 September.

The Cake stall/ refreshment stand is one of our great fundraisers.

We are never short of volunteers to help but is there any one who would like to take over the planning and co-ordination of the cake stall this year?

We will also need contributions of 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, 18 September, or delivered to the cake stall on Saturday morning.

Volunteers will also be needed to help on the cake stall, information stand and the Barbecue!!

Keep this date free!!!Any questions please contact Margaret Crimp, 475 3263

Email; m.crimp@xtra.co.nz

Guest Speaker at the 9th AGM:

Kevin Hackwell, Advocacy Manager, Forest and Bird, spoke on Climate Change and the effect on NZ Biodiversity.

This was an enthralling talk with graphic depictions of what is happening to the flora and fauna as the climate warms up. Distribution of the mohua (yellowhead) once abundant is becoming extremely limited. Kevin explained about the flow on effect of warm late summers causing mast years to increase populations of rats and stoats and hence the decrease of the native bird population. He talked about the alpine habitat in Coromandel being under pressure, as are the wetlands with mangroves spreading south, and warming seas affecting fish feeding,

He also talked about different poisons and how much more efficient 1080 is than others. 1080 is non-threatening to humans and to animals. The active ingredient fluoro-acetate is found in tea. He suggested that the use of 1080 should be subsidised as increased forest growth would impact on carbon credits.

Environmental Education Programme

The trust board has been working with members of the newly formed Wilton Foundation to put in place the Environmental Education Programme for Otari Wilton's Bush for 2009. We're very excited at the opportunities provided by a Lotteries Grant to Forest and Bird, which will enable two part-time educators/interpreters to work at Otari Wilton's Bush from June 2009 for a year. The interpreters will be working with school groups and designing a programme for students, including hands-on activities at the Reserve. This work fits in well with work that WCC have underway providing internet accessible resources, delivered by Sue Corkill and collaborators. The work on the school-based programmes is to focus on interpreting the natural environment to school students aged 8-15, from the Wellington area. If you would like to assist in supporting this work, or have ideas that might help our educators' delivery to particular groups of students around Wellington, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. Contact, Susan Waugh susan@closeburn.org or ph 04 976 4227, 021 168 3531

Courses at Otari in 2009

Later in the year there will again be courses at Otari concerned with various aspects of native plants. 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

From just before Labour Day there will be John Dawson's 6-meeting course on New Zealand native plants: **What Native Plant is That?** Wednesday 7-9pm and various Saturdays starting 21 October.

This will be followed by two shorter courses, one on native ferns and the other on horticultural aspects of our native plants.

- i) Introduction to our Native Ferns. Tutor: Leon Perrie. Wednesday 28 and Saturday 31 October
 - ii) The Cultivation of Native Plants. Tutor: Rewi Elliot. Wednesday 4 and Saturday 7 November.
- There will be fuller details in the next newsletter.

Raukaua anomalus

This is one of New Zealand's many divaricating shrubs – densely twiggy, with the leaves mostly in the middle of the bush. *Raukaua anomalus* is a shrub or small tree to 3 metres, and occurs in the bush around Otari. It is also grown in the gardens. As a juvenile plant it can be trifoliate (leaves having three leaflets), and until recently was placed in the genus *Pseudopanax* (five finger). It is found throughout the North, South and Stewart Islands, growing in forest margins and lowland scrub. I can find no information on its cultivation preferences; however it has turned up in my garden and is growing happily, which suggests it is not too particular in its requirements.



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