

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views September, 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
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 19 September	OPEN DAY. See pages 4 and 5.
Sunday 27 September 2pm	The Southern Waterfall Visit the hidden waterfall above the south picnic ground with a short adventurous off track clamber up to the Blue Trail. Stream crossing, with steep climb. Reasonably strenuous, wet feet. Boots recommended. 2 hours. <i>Leader: Chris Moore</i>
Sunday 25 October 2pm	The Nature Trail is our showcase walk which tells the overall Otari story. It leads through the original forest past some forest giants with wonderful epiphyte gardens, Delicate ferns grow on the forest floor. Some steep steps down and up again. One and a half hours. <i>Leader: Chris Haronga</i>
Sunday 22 November 2 pm	Plants that POISON, MAIM and KILL!!!! Easy walk. About 1 hour <i>Leader: Rewi Elliot</i>
Sunday 27 December 2pm	Recover from your Christmas festivities! Bring your out of town visitors and come and walk up the Blue Trail through the forest to the 800 year old rimu. Steep with some steps. Good shoes recommended. 2 hours <i>Leader: John Dawson</i>
Friday 2 October 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.

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone,

Spring is in the air with all the fine weather Wellington has been having lately.

Tracks are drying out and the plant growth is on an upward spiral.

Since the last newsletter we have had a very successful seminar on Wellington Rocks and a number of successful walks.

The Board also made submissions to the Wellington City Council long term plan which has resulted in changes to the gardens and beaches part of the plan concerning Otari-Wilton's Bush. (see www.wcc.govt.nz)

Visitor numbers are increasing again and it is great to see the Troup picnic area in use on days even in winter.

It is also time to clean up our act a little before Open Day and the influx of summer visitors. See details elsewhere for how you can help make Otari-Wilton's Bush a worthy garden of National Significance. Many visitors comment on how our paths and gardens look and the staff really do appreciate your help so give it a go!

Progress on the landscape plan is slow but it is moving and we will let you know when the final draft is produced. We were given an excellent tour of the proposed changes by Rewi Elliot as part of the regular Wellington Botanical Society program. As you can see when you visit changes are already being made and these make for more logical flow of pathways for visitors.

The Heritage map of Otari-Wilton's Bush is now finished and we are just in the final stages of printing the booklet so look out for it soon.

The Otari-Wilton's Bush Open day is our event on the spring festival calendar and all help will be welcome. It is on Bledisloe Cup day in Wellington so that could mean even more visitors from out of town. Our neighbours from Otari School are also holding an Eco Fair which means parking will be at a premium.

Finally get out and enjoy the forest walks at Otari-Wilton's Bush, spring is the flowering time for many native trees so keep your eyes peeled on the canopy walkway. Kereru are in abundance so look out above your head!

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

Kia ora koutou

Spring is approaching, which means the Otari open day is just around the corner. This year's open day promises to be a fun filled day with activities concentrated around the information centre including a propagation workshop, flax weaving demonstrations, a closer look at lancewoods and lots of guided walks around the gardens and forest. A great opportunity to learn a little more about New Zealand's fantastic flora and of course you can take a little flora home with you from the famous plant sale.

Staff are busying themselves with more regular garden maintenance now that the braided river garden landscaping has been completed. Planting, weeding, mulching and some judicious pruning has been the order of the day, along with another minor path change to facilitate driving our tractor around the plant collections.

We are short one staff member at present after Pippa Lloyd resigned last month. Pippa has carried out some great work here in the nursery and with many of our regular volunteers. We look forward to appointing a new gardener into this role soon. There are certainly some excellent candidates around for this exciting position.

We have had some issues this winter with the deck and canopy walkway becoming very slippery in the wet. The tree growth has been phenomenal around the deck since it was built ten years ago, but unfortunately the resultant shade does not help to dry the timber out after rain, meaning the deck becomes a health and safety concern at times. We are working toward an anti-slip solution which will provide safe passage for the thousands of visitor who cross the deck and walkway every year.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Open Day on Saturday 19 September.

Take care,

Rewi Elliot
Curator/Manager
Otari-Wilton's Bush

The Board of Trustees

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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

Celebrate Conservation Week and Spring Festival

at Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day 2009

Saturday 19 September, 9am - 3pm

9am – 10am: Basic plant propagation workshop in the information centre, Te Marae o Tane.

Cuttings, seed, and division with Collection Curator Tim O'Leary and Curator/Manager Rewi Elliot.

9.30am: a guided walk along the Nature Trail (approximately one hour)

A fantastic walk with our informative guides through both the native botanic garden and forest remnants. Some steps, steep in places, good footwear required. Leaves from the Information Centre.

10am: The crafty lancewood and the moa, in the information centre, Te Marae o Tane.

A fascinating tale of plant camouflage by Victoria University lecturer Dr K.C. Burns.

10.30am onwards: Harakeke weaving in the information centre, Te Marae o Tane.

Weaver Sarni Scott from Te Wananga o Aotearoa will demonstrate harakeke weaving

11am onwards: Native forest plants for sale on the Cockayne Lawn

A great selection of New Zealand forest plants for your home garden.

1pm: Bush walk to the skyline and back (minimum two hours long)

Explore some great forest trails with fantastic views at the top with Wellington Botanical Society members. Some steep gradients with steps. Good walking shoes, warm clothing and possibly raincoats required. Please bring your own lunch and water bottle. Cancelled if very wet. Leaves from the Information Centre.

1pm: Bush walk to the 800 year old rimu and back (approximately one hour)

Visit the oldest tree in Wellington City with our informative guides walking through the forest reserve. Some steps, steep in places, good footwear required.

1pm: Otari Treasure Trail with Dr John Dawson (approximately one hour)

Join renowned botanist and author Dr John Dawson for a walk through the native botanic gardens uncovering treasures of New Zealand's flora. An easy walk. Leaves from the Information Centre.

2pm: a guided walk along the Nature Trail (approximately one hour)

A fantastic walk with our informative guides through both the native botanic garden and forest remnants. Some steps, steep in places, good footwear required. Leaves from the Information Centre.

3pm: Otari Treasure Trail with Dr John Dawson (approximately one hour)

Join renowned botanist and author Dr John Dawson for a walk through the native botanic gardens uncovering treasures of New Zealand's flora. An easy walk. Leaves from the Information Centre.

All day: Bring along your pest plants for identification.

Experts from Wellington Greater Regional Council will be on hand to show you the best ways to control a range of Wellington weeds.

Sausage sizzle, tea and coffee refreshments available all day.

For more information and the day's programme check www.Wellington.govt.nz or phone 499 4444.

Open Day - Plant Sale - HELP.

This event is being held this year – on **Saturday, 19 September. The plant sale starts this year at 11am with talks and walks beforehand. (see page 4)**

We need your help in different ways:

We need help to man the refreshment table and the barbecue.

We also ask you to help by providing cakes, muffins, loaves, biscuits etc to sell.

The **Cake stall/ refreshment stand and barbecue** are our great fundraisers but they can only be successful with your help.

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.

For any questions or to volunteer please contact Margaret Crimp, 475 3263 Email; m.crimp@xtra.co.nz

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 10 when we are going to clean up the boundaries and tracks.

The second is on Saturday 12 September when we are planning to clean up the streams in Otari. These projects will leave Otari looking pristine for Open Day. Members are very welcome to come to help with either project.

For both projects 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.

Spring Courses at Otari

The Wellington Region is notable for its wide range of types of natural vegetation. This makes it an ideal place for courses on native plants.

What Native Plant is That?

This spring John Dawson will run his 6 meetings course on New Zealand native plants. There will be two evening meetings - Wed. 21 October on native forests illustrated with slides and Wed. 11 November on alpine plants. An identification workshop at Otari on Sat. 14 November in the afternoon will be concerned with getting to know the commoner forest species. Day field trips are Sat. 24 October (Kaitoke), Sat 21 November (Kapiti Coast) and a morning visit to Otari on Sat. 28 November mostly to see the garden areas and their plants, with interesting stories, from all over the country.

There will be two short courses with a Wednesday evening introduction (7-9pm), followed by a walk around at Otari on the following Saturday morning from 10am.

Introduction to our Native Ferns

One of these will be on New Zealand native ferns by Leon Perrie, botanist at Te Papa. We have almost 200 native species of ferns in New Zealand from small filmy ferns to tall tree ferns. Ferns play a prominent role in our forests. They are very attractive and have many interesting stories. Wed 28 and Saturday 31 October.

The Cultivation of Native Plants

The other short course is on horticultural aspects of Otari by Rewi Elliot, Curator-Manager, which will include advice on growing natives in home gardens.

It is a busy, interesting time at Otari with plans for a number of developments in the planted gardens. Some of these developments are underway and will be seen on the Saturday visit. Wed 4 and Sat 7 November.

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. . A flier on the courses is available at the Information Centre at Otari.

For further information or to enrol for these courses phone Onslow College 477 1118 or email commed@onslow.school.nz.

Stan Reid 1908 - 1993.

This information has been assembled by Stan Pillar from material sourced by others.

John Stanley Reid was born in Dunedin. In 1926 Stan became a Public Service Cadet in the State Forest Service which had been established a few years earlier. At that time Dr Leonard Cockayne was attached to the service as Honorary Botanist.

After completing a B.Sc. at Victoria University College, Stan was persuaded by Cockayne to do a study of the vegetation of Otari Reserve for an honours thesis. (A copy of Stan Reid's thesis "*A preliminary study of the vegetation of Otari Plant Museum*" is in the Otari library - ask the staff if you would like to see it). This study (1932-34) was supervised by Prof. Harry Kirk who was Chair of the Biology Department. This would have been one of the earliest (if not the earliest) studies of its kind in NZ. Some of the quadrats - 17 in all - have been revisited by Stan in 1982/83 after he had retired, and by Yvonne Marjot in 1992. *See page 7 for excerpts from "Changes over 50 years in a Native Forest Quadrat in Otari Reserve, Wellington" (Stan Reid, Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin No 42, 1985).*

Stan worked for the Forest Service until he retired in 1969, and lived in Wadestown all that time. He played a prominent part in the investigations and practical courses that promoted the use of plantation timber in NZ. After he retired he took a position at the School of Forestry in Canterbury for 6 years, before returning to live in Wadestown. He and his wife Jean were active in a number of organisations including the Wellington Botanical Society, the Tararua Tramping Club and the Ngaio Gorge restoration group. There are two seats in front of the Wadestown Library in memory of Stan and Jean Reid.

Introduction

Botanical studies which I undertook at Otari, Wellington, in the period 1932-34 reflect an association with Dr Leonard Cockayne during the last years of his life. He suggested that, for an honours thesis, I should determine why rangiora was such an important component of forested areas near Wellington. In retrospect, I have little doubt that Cockayne foresaw that the study would inevitably extend to rangiora's associates, but not necessarily to encompass the survey described as "**A Preliminary Study of the Vegetation of Otari Plant Museum**".

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On a ground plan, the positions of all woody plants 3' (1m) or more tall were plotted, and approximate groundline diameters drawn in, according to a scale 1" (2.5 cm) = 10' (3 m). Beside each entry the species symbol and height in feet were entered. Where ferns produced a well-developed cover, as in Quadrat 12, another ground plan was usually drawn to show them. For consistency, the plant names used in the text are those on which the species symbols, used on the quadrat drawings, are based, and include both common and formal names. Changes in botanical nomenclature since 1932 tend to make a nonsense of some species symbols chosen at that time, e.g. N = *Pseudopanax* (*Nothopanax*) *arboreus*. Table 1 lists all the species and their symbols.

In Stan's paper, comparing his 1982-3 observations with those made in 1932-3, he notes that clearing of the forest by European settlers was incomplete on the west of the Kaiwharawhara Stream. This left tongues of bush in the valleys. Quadrat 12 extended from the bush edge down into the valley. In the table below Stan shows the growth in native bush that occurred over the 50 years.

Table 1: Tally by Height Classes in Quadrat 12 in 1932-34 and 1982-83

Names and Symbols used in text and figures		Height Class 1: 25' (7.6 m & Up)		Height Class 2: 12-25' (3.7-7.6 m)		Height Class 3: 3-12' (1-3.7 m)		Floor	
		1932-4	1982-3	1932-4	1982-3	1932-4	1982-3	1932-4	1982-3
kohekohe	K	10	17	39	27	18	23	8	6
<i>Macropipier</i>	m			4	5	13	40	56	15
rangiora	r			6	3	1	7		1
mahoe	M	1	1	2	3	1	5	7	5
<i>Geniostoma</i>	G			4	4	4	5	4	
<i>Pennantia (corymbosa)</i>	Pc			3	2	1		1	
tawa	T			1	2	2			
pigeonwood	P	1	1	1	4				1
pate	p			1	(1)	1		1	
mapau	S			1	(1)	3		3	1
rewarewa	RR				2		4	4	3
<i>Olearia (rani)</i>	O	1		2		2		2	
<i>Fuchsia (excorticata)</i>	F	1		2					
hinau	H					2		2	
<i>Aristotelia (serrata)</i>	A							1	
ramarama	rr					10		11	
five finger	N			3					1
karaka	Ka					2	1	4	4
kahikatea (white pine)	Wp							2	
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	Cop.luc.			1	1	2	1		
<i>C. areolata</i>	Cop.are								
	Ca			1			2		
<i>C. grandifolia (australis)</i>	Cop.gr.								
	Cop.aus.			1	1		2	1	
<i>Paratrophis (microphylla)</i>	Pm					1	1		
titoki	Ti								1
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	Cm (cm)	1					1		
<i>C. dealbata</i>	Cd (cd)			2			3		
barberry (<i>B. darwinii</i>)	Barb						2		
gorse	Go						2		
<i>Cassinia (leptophylla)</i>	Cs (cass)					2			
supplejack	Sj	few	many						
TOTALS		15	19	70	56	65	99	107	38

There is not the space here to include the detailed plans of quadrat 12, or the Otari map. If you want copies of these please contact the editor (davee@paradise.net.nz).

Alfred Russel Wallace 1823 – 1913

In a forward to a publication (Ref.1), the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew – Sir Ghillean Prance, says that ‘Alfred Russel Wallace was one of the unsung heroes of natural history, and co-author, with Charles Darwin, of the theory of evolution by natural selection’.

It is good to see, that the plea of Darwin’s friends that Darwin be given ‘priority of discovery’ when the Wallace / Darwin papers were first made public, has been questioned. These papers, which described the theory of evolution, were written quite independently and from different sources, and presented together at a meeting of the Linnaean Society of London, in 1858. The term ‘co-author’ gives recognition to the sequence and content of developments made by Wallace towards his final paper on evolutionary theory, made public with the Darwin paper.

It was rather like claiming who put the first foot on the top of Everest !!!

But who is Alfred Russel Wallace ?

Wallace at the age of 13 years, was taken from his Grammar School, because his father could no longer afford his fees. This was the last of his formal education. He was thrown onto his own resources to make his way in life, to later become a distinguished and celebrated international scientist. This he achieved by sheer determination to study and learn through expansive reading, note-taking and drawing.

After leaving home, he joined his eldest brother, William, who was a surveyor. Wallace worked with his brother for approximately seven years. Despite the fact that train-tracks were pushing their way throughout the country, work was sporadic, and he had time to explore the country-side, and make use of local libraries, ‘having developed a taste for reading’.

He was familiar with the Linnaean classification of plants and their nomenclature, and his country wanderings became ‘field trips’, collecting plants and developing his own herbarium. From London’s ‘Encyclopaedia of Plants’, he copied out the character of every British species of plants. (2 – p193) .

In 1844, at the age of 21 years, when surveying work was scarce, he applied for a junior teaching position at the Collegiate School at Leicester, and taught English, writing, arithmetic and surveying, for about a year. This work-load allowed him to spend about two hours each day in the city library. He says that his time in Leicester was the most important in his early life. Firstly because in the library there he met and later befriended Henry Walter Bates, a young entomologist who introduced him to a new aspect of nature. Secondly, in the city library he read the most important book which shaped his thinking about evolutionary theory – Malthus’s ‘Principles of Population’ which he says ‘without which work I should probably not have hit upon the theory of natural selection and obtained full credit for its independent discovery’. (2.p240) Malthus’s discussions about survival to reproduce - gave Wallace the long-sought clue to the effective agent in the evolution of organic species. Wallace reluctantly retired from teaching and returned to surveying to take over his brother’s work, after his unexpected death from a lung infection.

In 1847, now aged 24 years, he suggested to Bates that they travel to the Amazon Basin, and support themselves, by collecting items of natural history, sending them back to an agent, who in turn would ‘dispose’ of their duplicates. In this way they could be supplied with funds and stores. They found a most reliable agent, a Mr. Stevens.(2-p266).

Together with Bates he travelled and collected in the Amazon region (1848-52). Their task was to find scientific support which would give the elusive clue to the mechanism of evolution. During the return trip, the ship caught fire and sank. Wallace’s four year collection of living and preserved specimens were lost. But he did save a tin containing his drawings and notes.

Back in London after studying the small South East Asian collection in the British Museum, he planned an expedition, going alone to the Malay Archipelago region (1854 – 62). This took enormous courage, adapting to the many tribal customs, diet and behaviour of the different native groups, and being accepted shooting and netting in their territory.

In his quest for specimens, it is estimated that he travelled approximately 15-20,000 miles visiting Singapore, the Malay Archipelago, Malacca, Borneo, the Celebes, the Moluccas, New Guinea, Timor, Java and Sumatra. About 127,000 specimens were collected in the four years he was in South East Asia.

During these expeditions Wallace noticed a distinct difference between the Australian and Asian faunas -- drawing a hypothetical line. This line is now known to follow a deep channel between the larger islands of Borneo and Celebes, and the smaller ones of Bali and Lombok and is known as the 'Wallace Line'. This was well before understanding the break-up of the ancient continent of Gondwana and plate tectonics. It's significance to Wallace was that he was witnessing species on different sides of the line, which had come into existence coincidentally, but had developed physical differences.

In February 1858, Wallace, while confined to bed recovering from malaria, had the opportunity to put together his accumulated knowledge, and applying the work of Thomas Malthus, arrived at his theory of evolution, independently. A few days later he wrote it up in essay form, and with a covering letter sent the essay to Charles Darwin. The contents were a surprise to Darwin, as Wallace's ideas were the same as his own, sketched out as early as 1842, and supported much of the work he had done over the last twenty years, but had not made public. The outcome was that the paper sketched out in 1842 by Darwin, and the paper sent from the Molluccas, by Wallace, were read together at the Linnaean Society on the 1st July 1858 (3 page 56-58).

On his return to England in 1862, Wallace expressed delight that his essay sent to Darwin in 1858, had provoked him to complete and publish "The Origin of Species" in 1859.

Wallace later published numerous books and journal articles, supporting his evolutionary biology. Many of these were original and were accompanied by forceful arguments.

He had brought back 127,000 natural history specimens, which were the subject of his scientific papers, covering a wide range of topics. In a publication in 1910 he accepted the chromosome theory of inheritance. He was an outspoken supporter of social reforms, pacifism, women's rights and other progressive movements, which ultimately caused many of his scientific colleagues to distance themselves. Ironically many of these reforms have subsequently been introduced.

During his career he received recognitions -- from the Royal Society, Oxford University, the Royal Geographical Society, and many other sources. He was also awarded the Sovereign's 'Order of Merit' and he was the first to be awarded the Darwin / Wallace Medal from the Linnaean Society of London.

Notwithstanding the progress of other scientists in the nineteenth century -- the achievements of the 'naturalists' Wallace and Darwin, stand supreme.

Jock Fleming

- (1) "Footsteps in the Forest" by Sandra Knapp. Pub. Natn. Hist. Musm – London. 1999.
- (2) "My Life" A record of Events and Opinions" Alfred Russel Wallace -- London. 1905.
- (3) "A Bicentenary History of the Linnaean Society of London" Gage & Stearn 1988.

Footnote from Dave Burton who lectures in biology at Victoria University.

Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace independently worked out the theory of evolution by natural selection, and both are rightly credited with its discovery. It is a theory which is simple enough to understand, but it has enormous explanatory power, and it is the core principle we look to in understanding biological processes. But to really understand the power of natural selection, one has to swim in it for years, and it takes a very long time of study and experience to really appreciate the power, beauty, and scope of this seminal thesis. It is not generally known that Darwin and Wallace differed in one major respect - Wallace

Alseuosmia banksii

This species is found in the North Island. It is a shrub of the forest floor and margins. The flowers are highly scented, and are followed by bright red fruit. In cultivation *Alseuosmias* can be temperamental to grow. They are frost tender and prefer a moist (but not waterlogged) and shady spot.

This species is highly variable in the wild. At Otari it is growing in the 38 degree border (Wild Garden), along with other species of *Alseuosmia*. They have buds now and will be flowering soon.

the evolutionary hindsight, it is now both had proposed.



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 Ota
- 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 following list:

- Work parties
- Administration
- Historical Research
- Hosting a
- Guiding

Please send this completed form with your cheque to:

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