

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## News and Views December, 2009

Web site: [www.otariwiltonsbush.org.nz](http://www.otariwiltonsbush.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	<b>Plant care</b> will run on the first Saturday of each month. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044. See page 5.
<b>Sunday 27 December</b> 2pm	Recover from your Christmas festivities! Bring your out of town visitors and come and walk up the <b>Blue Trail</b> through the forest to the 800 year old rimu. Steep with some steps. Good shoes recommended. 2 hours <i>Leader John Dawson</i>
<b>Sunday 24 January</b> 2pm	<b>Kauri Grove and old pukatea trees</b> Visit special trees off the beaten track - the 70 year old kauri grove above the Flax Clearing and then on down the Yellow Trail to see the large ancient pukatea trees Steep with some steps. Good shoes recommended. 2 hours. <i>Leader: John Dawson</i>
<b>Sunday 24 January</b> 4pm	<b>Annual Trust Barbeque</b> See page 4.
<b>Sunday 28 February</b> 9am	<b>February 28 Wainuiomata Waterworks</b> For details see inside. A guided walk of approx. 9 km in the Wainuiomata water collection area from 9am to 2.30pm. Dress for the bush environment with rain jacket, extra warm clothing, tramping boots, and bring lunch and drinks etc. <i>Leader: Margaret Crimp</i> . See page 4
<b>Tuesdays in March</b> 7.30 pm	In the information Centre - a series of seminars. see page 3.
<b>Sunday 28 March</b> 2pm	<b>Pseudopanax and hybrids</b> Leon will talk about his current research using illustrations as we walk around. <i>Leader: Leon Perrie</i>

## Chairman's Message

Hi Everyone

We are now in to a warmer time of the year and potentially lots more visitors to Otari-Wilton's Bush. The cruise ship season has started and visitors continue to be impressed with the range of plants one even calling the juvenile pseudopanax species an upside down tree! I assured her that later on in life it righted itself to a more tree-like specimen.

The results of the visitor survey done last March were very encouraging.

The points to note:

- A spread of types and ages , family groups, alone, with friends etc
- Time spent 86% up to 2 hours
- High number of return visits 68%
- About 20% visiting from out of town or overseas
- Mean overall satisfaction of 6.7/7.0, an excellent score

Further benchmark information against all gardens surveyed should be available early next year, 2010.

We can be pleased but not complacent about these results and I know you will all do your bit to keep the good work going. Don't be shy to ask people if they want help; they are normally happy to get assistance. Please note the general rock garden is now the Brockie rock garden after a small ceremony last week at the seat installation.

Weekend hosts now have a new stock of the Nature Guide to the New Zealand Forest signed by the author, our chief guide Dr John Dawson. Please show it to people who may be interested in purchasing a copy. I know several hosts have also given them as Xmas presents; the Rob Lucas photos show many Otari-Wilton's Bush examples.

We will now also have an Otari-Wilton's Bush heritage map and booklet available that has been in production for some time. This has been produced in conjunction with the Wellington Botanical Society and funded partly by a grant from the Lotteries Board.

Lastly I would like to say a big thanks to Tim O'Leary, one of the long serving Otari-Wilton's Bush staff members who left this month. On behalf of all volunteers and trust members we gave him an appropriate gift at a recent farewell. Have a safe and happy summer.

Regards  
Phil Parnell

## Brockie Rock Garden

On November 3 members of the Brockie family gathered with friends to unveil a seat commemorating Walter Boa Brockie who was curator of Otari from 1947 to 1962. The seat is near the pond facing the well-known rock garden which Brockie was responsible for creating. He made many collecting trips around New Zealand to gather plants and seeds for this garden and the other collections. At this ceremony it was also announced that the rock garden will now officially be known as the Brockie Rock Garden.

## March Seminars 2010

An exciting programme is being prepared for Tuesdays in March. The theme is going to be "Visions". There will be 5 different speakers. More details in the February newsletter or on the website.



# Otari Report

Kia ora koutou

We have certainly had a busy last few months here at Otari. It was sad to see long time staff member Tim O'Leary leave last month after working here for the past 12 years. Tim made a great contribution to Otari while here. We hope to appoint someone into this position soon.

The barbecues at the Troup lawn have been in the spotlight recently after a child stood on the hotplate and burnt her feet. I turned the barbecues off for several weeks while we organised some warning signage to alert people that they may be hot. Warning signage is now installed adjacent to the hotplates and the barbecues are available for use.

We now have a plaque commemorating Walter Brockie on a seat next to the pond in the rock garden. Previously we had nothing in memorial of Brockie who built the rock garden when he was curator here from 1947 – 1962. It's great to now have some recognition of his important contribution.

Don't be alarmed when gaping holes appear in the rock garden for a period. Dave hopes to be changing some of the soil in the rock garden over the early summer period. Once the soil has been renewed we will be replanting with plants we have propagated from the rock garden over the past year.

In December and January we have a contractor coming in to install some steps on the Red Trail and a fence on the Waterfall Track. This work will make short sections of both tracks a little easier and safer to negotiate.

I will miss some of our summer this year. I am travelling to India from the end of November to mid January. I hope to visit several forest parks and botanic gardens in Gujarat and Rajasthan while there.

Have a great summer everyone.

Regards,

Rewi Elliot  
Curator/Manager  
Otari-Wilton's Bush



## Website

The Trust has adopted the Otari website established by the Kennetts as its official website. It's address is: [www.otariwiltonsbusht.org.nz](http://www.otariwiltonsbusht.org.nz). Go and have a look for yourselves. Most of the text has been provided by Jock Fleming. As time permits, we will add additional material.

## Archives – HELP!

It has been agreed that it would wise to put any records of Otari history into an archive. Is there any one out there who would be interested in taking on this project? We would also welcome stories from the past. Contact a Board member if you can help at all.

## Trust Annual Barbeque

On Sunday, January 24, 4pm after the monthly walk. Bring your families, food and drink and come along to the free barbecues in the Troup Picnic Ground to meet and mix with other Trust members.



## The Board of Trustees

Chairman Phil Parnell	93 Amritsar St, Khandallah. Phone: 479 2239. landy@xtra.co.nz
Secretary: Margaret Crimp	167 Wilton Rd., Wilton. Phone: 475 3263. m.crimp@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer. Jocelyn Hoskin	14 Warwick St, Wilton. Phone: 475 8696. jocelynhoskin@clear.net.nz
Peter Buxton	106 Weld St, Wadestown. Phone: 472 3456. jbuxton@paradise.net.nz
Wilbur Dovey	40 Warwick St. Wilton. Phone: 499 1044. cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz
Geoffrey Moss	7 Dorset Way, Wilton. Phone: 472 8226. moss@xtra.co.nz
John Shrapnell	27 Hanover St., Wadestown. Phone: 473 7128. shrapnell@clear.net.nz
Susan Waugh-Filippi	116 Wilton Rd. Wilton. Phone: 976 4227. susan@closeburn.org
Cathy Wylie	43 Huntleigh Park Way, Ngaio. 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. davee@paradise.net.nz

## Path and other location names used in the Otari Open-Air Native Plant museum 1926- 1965:

This is a map and a booklet that reflects many hours of dedicated research by Rodney Lewington. The map displays all the historic paths etc as well as the current. It is an historic record which has been brought to life through his painstaking voluntary work and is now preserved for the future.

In a 1932 report Cockayne noted the need for easy reference to paths and locations: "It has been decided that such names, with a few exceptions, shall be those of the botanists who, by their researches, have brought about the present knowledge of the flora and vegetation of New Zealand so that the history of our botany from the first voyage of Captain Cook up to the present time may be chronicled in the Museum." The booklet names all the different paths and locations with a brief biography of the person commemorated. This interesting and informative book and map is now available for \$30.

**This book was launched recently at the Otari Education Centre. Unfortunately too late for a review in this newsletter - look for it in the next one. Copies are available from Margaret Crimp 475 3263.**

## Wainuiomata Waterworks

**February 28** This will be a guided walk of approx. 9 km in the Wainuiomata water collection area from 9am to 2.30pm. Dress for the bush environment with rain jacket, extra warm clothing, tramping boots, and bring lunch and drinks etc. We will meet at the main Gate at 9pm. For those needing transport we can meet at Otari about 8am.

Numbers are limited so those wishing to come please contact Margaret Crimp, 475 3263 or [m.crimp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.crimp@xtra.co.nz)

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## Saturday volunteers

A steady group of volunteers has turned out on the first Saturday of each month to undertake plant care in Otari. Our efforts during the year have been mainly concentrated on the Kaiwharawhara Valley, clearing weeds from around the stream banks but also broom and gorse up the sides of the valley. In August and September we moved out of the valley to clear broom and gorse from the triangle on the corner of Wilton Road and Churchill Drive which had been planted up 4 years ago. In July the group planted several hundred trees on the tip face below Ian Galloway Park to supplement trees planted there last year and replace those that had not survived in not particularly great soil.

As an extra, members of the group participated in a Council planting in August organised by Otari staff at Huntleigh Park in Ngaio as our contribution to the 350 campaign on Climate Change where we planted 350 trees (picture attached).

Thanks to Wayne, Terry, Ron, Lynley, Owen, Leo, Geoff, Laurel, Martha and Viv for turning out regularly and to the Otari staff who provide tools and Vigilant each month.

We won't be working in January but from February onwards we'll be out there from 9am for around 2 hours work followed by a cup of tea, home baking and a chat. Please feel free to join us, there's lots of work to do. Meet at the Information Centre at 9am on the first Saturday of the month.



## Courses at Otari

As most people will be aware, Community Education funding has been severely cut. This means that Onslow College will no longer be running courses at Otari-Wilton's Bush.

However the Trust will continue to run courses (possibly in conjunction with the Zealandia sanctuary at a later date). We feel that the current format for short courses which is an evening 'talk', followed by a Saturday 'walk' works well.

If you have any comment or, thoughts about this, or different formats for courses; or suggestions for topics, please forward them to John Dawson. His email is [john.dawson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.dawson@xtra.co.nz)

## Open Day

Many thanks to all our helpers- those that brought food, those that helped on the barbecue and refreshment table, those that sold cards, those that helped on the tills and those that helped with guided walks. As we have said this is our major fundraiser and we could not do it without you.

**Raffle results:** Plants: Don Gillies  
Book - Trees and Their Bark: Philippa Richards



Above left: Phil Parnell and Geoffrey Moss man the barbeque.  
Above right: Davina Routley serves tea to Jenny Shearer.  
Centre: Sarni Scott weaver extraordinaire makes a flax rose.  
Musician Caroline Stevens and her mother Christine is holding the music in place.



Below left: The plant sale at 11.50am. and right at 2pm.



***Brachyglottis turneri***

This species is a naturally uncommon species with a restricted distribution. It is found only on a small area of northeast Taranaki, where it grows on wet mudstone cliffs. While it is easy to propagate, it is tricky to keep going in a garden. At Otari it is growing in the Brockie Rock Garden, in the small waterfall above the pond. It has yellow flowers and reddish stems, and likes its feet wet.



**OTARI**  
WILTON'S BUSH TRUST



# 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:

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

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

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