

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views June, 2011

Web site: 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	Plant care is on the first Saturday of each month. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044.
Sunday 5 June 2.00pm	Plant Identification Workshop <i>Leader: John Dawson</i>
Sunday 26 June 12.30 - 2pm	Raising plants at Otari : Meet an Otari curator and pick up some seed-sowing and cutting-growing tips in Otari's nursery - propagation demonstration free.
Sunday 26 June 2pm	Bernie Aston. <i>Poa astonii</i> and <i>Muehlenbeckia astonii</i> are just two of the plants named in honour of Bernard Aston (1871-1951), an eminent agricultural chemist and keen amateur botanist. Find out more about the man and his achievements on this moderate one and half hour walk. <i>Leader: Sandra Clarke</i>
Sunday 24 July 2pm	Our strange twiggy shrubs, lancewoods and spaniards. What's to blame -- The Ice Age or browsing moas? An easy walk from the Alpine Garden to the Lookout and below. About 1.5 hours. <i>Leader: John Dawson</i>
Friday 26 August 7.30pm	Glow Worm Trail. Take a look at night life in the native forest, down to the Kaiwharawhara stream. See page 6. <i>Leader: Dave Burton</i>
Sunday 28 August 2pm	An off-track walk: Walk up the McKenzie Stream to the water fall and then up the bank and return via the Flax Patch. A nearly 2 hour "boots" walk requiring medium fitness. <i>Leaders: Rodney Lewington and Chris Moore</i>
Sunday 17 September	OPEN DAY
Friday 9 September 7.30pm	Glow Worm Trail (see above and page 6.) <i>Leader: Dave Burton.</i>

Chairman's Message



After some welcome rain we seem to be hitting a fine patch in autumn at Otari-Wilton's Bush. The Trust has just held its AGM and it was a great evening, Thanks to all members who attended. Thanks also to our speaker the mayor for her thoughts on Wellington and the future.

David Sole mentioned the changes to the curator's house and we look forward to continued progress this addition to Otari-Wilton's Bush facilities.

Please welcome Ian Stockwell our newest Board member. Ian has a background in promoting New Zealand trade overseas, has been a member for 10 years and lives in Karori. He has a wide range of environmental interests.

Visitor numbers are still good and some overseas independent travellers are still calling at Otari-Wilton's Bush albeit in lower numbers. Hosts have been doing great work helping visitors and groups alike. Please call at the information centre where we have large versions of our information sheets on display.

Tracks on the blue and yellow trails are now slippery so ensure your footwear is up to the terrain. Kohekohe are now flowering profusely so get out and enjoy the western areas of the reserve.

At the AGM Rewi and his team had some of the plants on display from the plant collection trips the Trust have funded over the past three years and they are a great addition to Otari-Wilton's Bush collections.

The March seminars were a great success with good numbers and speakers. My thanks to Margaret Crimp and to everyone involved.

We are also hoping to hold a heritage picnic during the Wellington Heritage promotion month in late September, more details to follow later.

I hope you are all getting an opportunity to enjoy the gardens and bush reserve. The new signage for the collections is hopefully going to appear shortly.

Hope to see you at Otari-Wilton's Bush soon.

Cheers
Phil Parnell
Chairman

Otari Report

Kia ora koutou

It was great to see some of you at the Trust's annual general meeting last week. Mayor Celia Wade-Brown spoke about how fortunate Wellington city is to have so many 'wild places'. All there agreed that Otari was certainly the best of the lot!



Autumn has brought us up to planting time at Otari. Our burgeoning nursery will be able to exhale soon as we begin planting up areas that have been cleared of older plants during late summer. Many of the seeds and cuttings we have collected over the last three years are now ready to be planted.

Our new threatened species garden has been planted adjacent to the nursery. Previously our threatened species garden ran along the boundary of Otari School. We had resolved to move the garden three years ago when we completed a review of our collections and decided it was much too out of the way for a collection of plants with an important conservation message.

With the new garden will come new signs with conservation messages for visitors to read. Seven other gardens will also receive new signs. This is a project we have been working on for a year in conjunction with Katrina MacLennan, a Museum Studies student from Victoria University who designed these fantastic new signs for us.

Those of you that venture up to the Skyline Walkway through Otari will be pleased to see new flights of steps where the top of the Blue Trail meets entrance to Skyline Track. No more slipping over after wet weather now.

New cameras are now up and running in the northern car park at Churchill Drive. There has been a noticeable halt to car break-ins at our Wilton Rd car park since cameras were installed there, let's hope the new cameras work just as well.

Earlier this year in March, Finn (one of our collection curators) and I visited Otago to collect plants for the Otari plant collections. We are very grateful to the Trust who provided the funding for this trip. The trip was very successful and we collected approximately 70 species. The cuttings and seeds we brought back are already beginning to strike and germinate. Most days were spent with long walks during the morning and midday, with shorter visits to more accessible reserves in the late afternoon. We spent one night in a hut on the Rock and Pillar Range where the evening temperature was 6 degrees. Not quite as cold as the Old Man Range that was a chilly 2 degrees when we arrived at 8am!

Ka kite,

Rewi Elliot
Curator/Manager
Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve

Trust Board 2011 - 2012

At the Trust Board Annual General Meeting, held on May 11, 2011. 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

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.	pebuxton@xtra.co.nz
Wilbur Dovey	40 Warwick St. Wilton. Phone: 499 1044.	cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz
John Shrapnell	27 Hanover St., Wadestown. Phone: 473 7128.	shrapnell@clear.net.nz
Ian Stockwell	2 Paisley Terrace, Karori. phone: 476 3630.	stockwellian@hotmail.com
Cathy Wylie	43 Huntleigh Park Way, Ngaio. Phone: 938 6498. Cathy.wylie@vuw.ac.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

Open Day:

This year Open Day will be on Saturday September 17. Make a note of it now. This is your chance to buy quality native plants and of course it is also your chance to get involved with the Trust cake stall and barbecue.

Explore Otari Forest

To celebrate the United Nations International Year of the Forest Otari has produced a sheet "Explore Otari Forest". The take-away sheet gives 9 suggestions for activities in the forest. Pick up your copy from the Education Centre

Look and learn Then Walk

This is a must see.

If you are visiting Otari in the next few weeks you must go into the Information Centre to see the “Bernie Aston” display which will be there soon. Stan Pillar, with input from Sandra Clarke, has put together this interesting and informative display which complements the June Walk. Our thanks go to Stan and Sandra for their hard work.



Fungal Foray in April

We are increasingly having photos of various activities sent to us by members. Which is great. However a reminder that if you get this letter by email you also get all these photos in glorious colour!

Right: Geoff Ridley speaking with the Fungal Foray group at the totara near the Information Centre/ Te Marae o Tāne

Below:
Parasitica sp.
only two days old!
Right: Simon Morton with Geoff Ridley





Above: Tour of Percy Reserve, March 27. Jill Broome, the curator at Percy Reserve, with Stan Pillar.

Right: Here's a photo taken by Gail Andrews of one of the geckos that live in the big tawa by the bridge at Otari. It was spotted by Lesley Hughes and her partner Bill.



Glow worm walks

Walks on August 26 and September 9.

Meet at the Otari Information Centre. at 7.30pm

Glow worms are alive and well and living in Otari. We walk down through the bush at night, past tree ferns, rimus, epiphytes in profusion, ratas, crayfish – and glow worms. This is your chance to see glow worms up close and personal, complete with their midge-catching, sticky-thread nets. 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! The cost is \$4, \$2 for children. In the event of bad weather, for cancellations ring 499 4444 after 5pm.



**Collecting Trip in Central Otago
with Rewi Elliot and Finn Michalak.**

Left: Finn collecting *Aciphylla* seeds.

Above: Gentian



The nursery at Otari is impressive - orderly and full of seedlings from the collecting trip. Clockwise from top left: *Dracophyllum* sp., *Hebe hectori*, *Celmisia prorepens*, *Ranunculus reflexus*, *Plantago lanigera*



Rewi Elliot talks to the group about “Love Affairs at Otari—Polygamy. Incest and Hermaphrodites”

Elingamite/ Elingamita

On a recent trip Margaret Crimp took this photo in the Paeroa Museum. So what is the connection between an old toilet and a plant reserve?

The toilet was found in the wreck of the "SS Elingamite". This steamer had left Sydney on 5 November 1902 with 136 passengers, 58 crew and gold bullion worth £17,320 on board. On November 9, in dense fog and slowed to half speed, it struck an island in the Three Kings group. 45 people were drowned. (It was later found that the island's position had been wrongly charted.)

In 1950 a small tree or shrub was discovered endemic to the Three Kings Islands and confined to West island and two nearby islets.

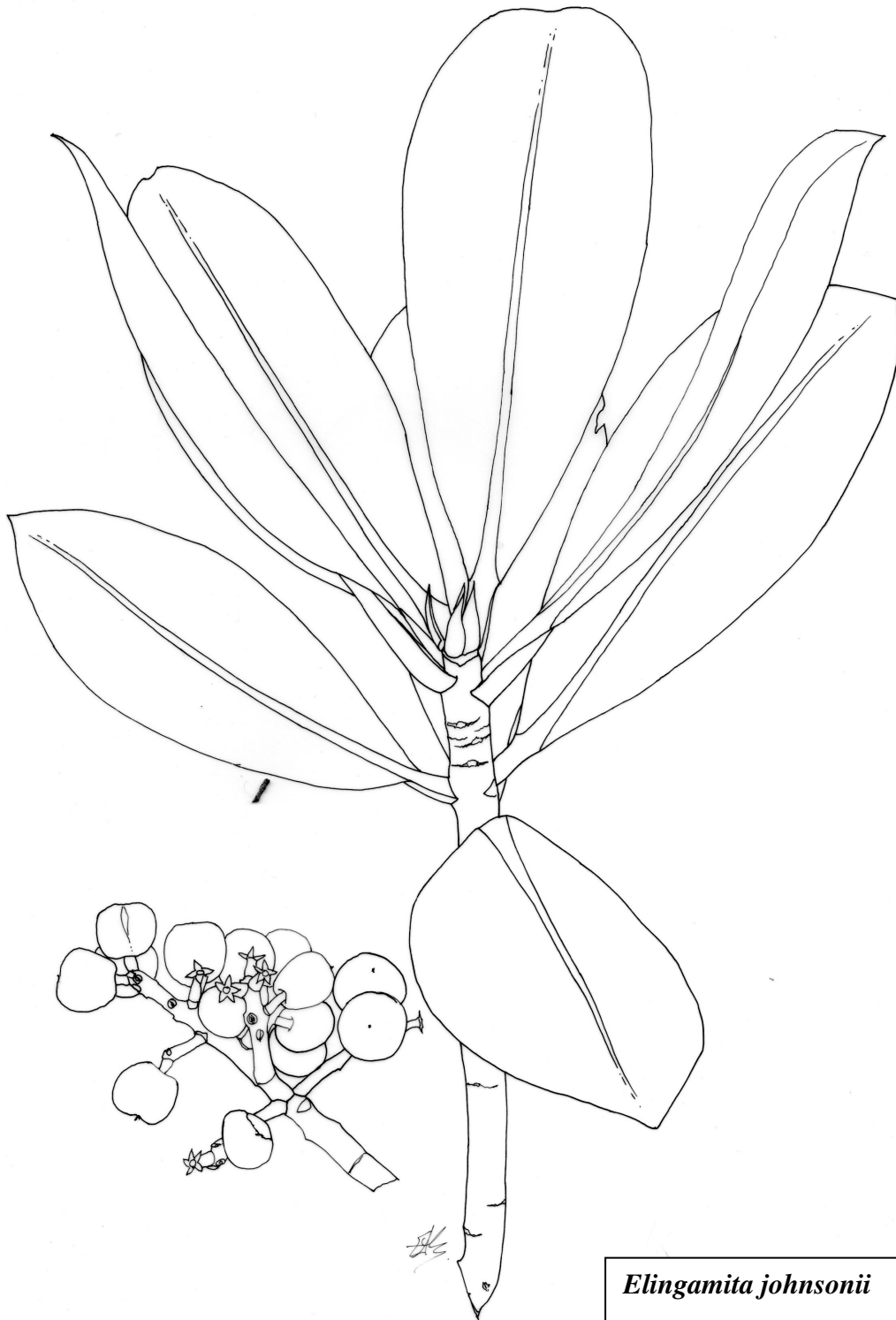
It was named *Elingamita johnsonii* after the steamship "Elingamite" that was wrecked on the foot of the cliffs of West Island, and Major Magnus Johnson who discovered it.

The entire world population of the tree is endemic to the Three Kings, confined to a small rocky island and two nearby islets, and thus is vulnerable to destruction by fire or other unforeseen events. *Elingamita johnsonii* grows as a shrub or small tree in Pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) forest and coastal scrub on West island. It also occurs on two rocky islets of the Princes Group; on one of these islets, Hinemoa Rock, it grows as an emergent canopy tree in exposed places.

Unripe berries on *Elingamita johnsonii* at Otari.



Elingamita is the subject of Eleanor Burton's drawing in this newsletter.



Elingamita johnsonii

This is an attractive small tree with large glossy leaves, and bunches of red fruit at this time of year. In the wild it is found only on the Three Kings Islands. Being a coastal tree it copes well with wind and dry conditions, but does not handle frost. At Otari it can be seen growing in the 38 degree garden, currently with fruit (still green).

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <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**