

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views June, 2012

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 24 June 2pm	Chapman. The story of the Chapman Gardens. In 1906 6.8 hectares of Wilton's Bush was sold to Martin Chapman who cleared tracks and planted exotic flowering shrubs alongside the forest. On his death in 1924 the land was brought back into the Otari scenic reserve. This easy 1 hour walk looks at the man and his gardens. <i>Leader: Sandra Clarke</i> (See p. 10)
Sunday 22 July 2pm	The Treasure Trail. This trail is an easy walk along the upper level at Otari. At the north end it begins in Job Wilton's reserve of original forest and going via the Information Centre ends at the Lookout with an extensive view of native forest, both original and secondary. This type of native forest is notable for the many features it shares with tropical rainforests.. All species highlighted along this walk are native only to NZ. 1- 1.5 hours. Easy. <i>Leader: John Dawson</i>
Sunday 26 August 2pm	Nature Trail. The Nature Trail 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>
Saturday 15 September	OTARI OPEN DAY Check out the photography competition page 8

Chairman's Message



Hi everyone,

The last few months have been a busy time for the Trust with various proposals that potentially affect Otari-Wilton's Bush being put forward. I discuss these more fully later in the newsletter (page 9).

We also recently had our AGM which was well attended and we gained a new Board member Jannine McCabe a local Wilton resident. Our thanks go to John Shrapnel who retires from the Board. There were three Otari awards presented Ron Fountain, Darea Sherratt and Rodney Lewington, Dave and Vera Burton. Congratulations to you all.

Rewi and Finn gave an excellent presentation on their trip to the Denniston plateau and the various plants discovered and mountain landscapes visited. The Trust financially supported this trip to widen the plant collections from this potentially endangered area.

The March seminar series went very well again this year and thanks go all Board members and Otari staff who helped with this important educational work.

A very successful fungal foray was held in May and thanks to Alison Stringer and Dr Geoff Ridley for their assistance. There are still many around in Otari and recent rain will help new growth. It is worth repeating we have an introductory fungi information sheet available from Hosts during weekends at Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Thank you also to all those who helped with the cruise ship tours this season. Anyone interested for participating contact Rodney Lewington who will ably manage bookings for next year. (See photos pp 6 & 7)

The walk for this month is a story about the Chapman gardens which form a significant part of the collection gardens at Otari-Wilton's Bush. It is on 24th June so look forward to seeing you there if timing suits.

Once again thanks to all members who are helping out; The Trust Board, visitors and Wellington City Council appreciate all your good work.

Phil Parnell

Chair Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

Otari Report



Kia ora koutou.

The gardens are looking absolutely wonderful at the moment. I think the area around the Cockayne lawn and Brockie rock garden is looking the best it has ever looked. The re-development of the grasses border just beyond is largely finished with just the odd plant to go in. We have a great team at present and it really is showing. Over the winter months you will see some changes a bit further down, immediately below the lookout, where we will be constructing a small parterre in a New Zealand style.

Open Day this year is being held on Saturday 15 September. We plan to have a photography competition starting in July, with the photos entered displayed on the open day in the Information Centre. The competition will be advertised on the Wellington City Council website. I encourage you to enter; there will be great prizes on offer for the winners. (See p.8)

Over the Easter break, Finn (one of our collection curators) and I visited the West Coast with the Nelson Botanical Society. We are very grateful to the Trust who provided the funding for this trip. While there we visited the Denniston Plateau and had the great pleasure of meeting up with Peter Robertson who is chairperson of the Denniston Heritage Trust. Peter's knowledge of the area's history is extensive and he was also able to give us an insight into Bathurst Resources plans to mine the plateau, an endeavour that would significantly alter this very special place.

Thanks also to the Trust Board and any other trust members who submitted on the recent EcoCity proposal and the WCC Long Term Plan. The staff here really appreciate your input via the submission process. Whatever changes may occur, our aspirations are that Otari and the staff that work here emerge from any changes in a stronger, better position to deliver on our vision.

On a less positive note, we were the victims of a plant pincher in late April. To our great disappointment at least twenty plants were stolen on the early hours of the 29th from the alpine garden and entrance walk to the Information Centre. Plants donated by the late Arnold Dench and threatened species we were hoping to put back in our forest were among those taken. This is a rare occurrence here but we have informed the police and are keeping our eyes peeled.

Kind regards,

Rewi Elliot

Curator/Manager

Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve

Email: rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz

Trust Board 2012 - 2013

At the Trust Board Annual General Meeting, held on May 9, 2012, 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 m.crimp@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 475 3263
Treasurer. Jocelyn Hoskin	14 Warwick St, Wilton jocelynhoskin@clear.net.nz	Phone: 475 8696
Peter Buxton	106 Weld St, Wadestown pebuxton@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 472 3456
Wilbur Dovey	40 Warwick St., Wilton cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 499 1044
Jannine McCabe	40 Worcester Street, Wilton jannine_mccabe@yahoo.co.nz	Phone 475 5494
Ian Stockwell	2 Paisley Terrace, Karori stockwellian@hotmail.com	Phone: 476 – 3630
Cathy Wylie	43 Huntleigh Park Way, Ngaio. Cathy.wylie@vuw.ac.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

At the recent AGM, **Jannine McCabe** joined the Trust Board. Originally from Otago, Jannine has lived in Wilton since 2005. She estimates that there would be very few weeks since then that she has not been walking in Otari-Wilton's Bush. Jannine has a long-standing interest in conservation issues and is a keen tramper. She works part-time as a public servant, spending the rest of her time caring for her young son (who attends Otari Pre-School and is being instilled with a love of the outdoors). Jannine would like Otari to remain a serene place that offers a high-quality visitor experience. Since joining, she has contributed to the Trust's submissions to WCC on the EcoCity and Long Term Plan proposals, and is looking forward to getting involved in other Trust activities.



Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust Board Report 2011-2012



The year has been an interesting one from the Trust's viewpoint. Both a proposal for land reclassification and a possible change in management structure for Otari-Wilton's Bush have been on the agenda. A number of our usual activities have filled the calendar and the unique features of Otari-Wilton's Bush were further promoted to a wide range of visitors.

To summarise, the Board activities have included:

- 1) Liaising with Creswick Valley Association re the Mega Mitre 10 proposal
- 2) Making submissions to the Council on the Long Term plan
- 3) Organising and delivering the successful March series of seminars.
- 3) Mounting an information booth and native plant quiz at the annual Wadestown fair
- 4) Guiding services to a range of visitors to the Garden with expansion of cruise visitors.
- 5) Funding of plant accession trip to Central North Island for curator and staff member.
- 6) Preparation of the Fungi Information sheet and more greeting cards
- 7) Supervision of Revegetation maintenance and planting in Kaiwharawhara valley
- 8) Provision of hosts on weekends to the public from the Information Centre
- 9) The launch of the reference book on NZ native trees by Dr John Dawson
- 10) Organising and carrying out the annual clean up of Otari-Wilton's Bush
- 11) A range of volunteer services during the week to assist with garden maintenance
- 12) Measurement and numbering of kauri trees above the flax clearing

Planning

We were advised late in February that WCC funding may not be available for the curator's cottage and entrance changes in this financial year. We now hear through the 2012-22 annual plan process that this has been taken out of the draft plan entirely. We were also advised after the end of the March that a report had been prepared on Zealandia funding options. One of these options included the Botanic Gardens and Otari-Wilton's Bush with the Zoo and Zealandia in a council controlled organisation.

The Board will be submitting on both these issues to the WCC consultation process.

Project Kaiwharawhara Revegetation

This project is still being ably done by Trust volunteers. They and a few corporate groups have carried out considerable plant care and weed eradication over the last year. The area is growing enormously and we still get great comments from people who remember the previous gorse and bare ground prior to this decade long project beginning.

Special Mention

The passing of one of our founding Board members Jock Fleming long time Wilton resident took place this year. Jock "the track builder" has his own track to the skyline from the flax clearing for us to remember him when we walk there.

Project Rambo (Rats and Mustelids Blitzing at Otari)

This project is using new traps and volunteers to focus on further elimination of pests within Otari-Wilton's Bush reserve. This has improved the environment particularly for native bird species within the reserve and surrounding bush.

Certainly the increased bird numbers are noticed and enjoyed by visitors to the gardens.

Hosting and Guiding

The Trust is actively involved in organising and training hosts and guides for the reserve.

The program this year has been successful and we have been asked to be part of the ongoing cruise program for visitors in 2012-13.

The guides have been busy with an increasing number of visitors to the reserve.

Thank you to all who helped out in this important activity.

We also have a monthly walks program which was been well attended all year. A special thanks to Dr Geoff Ridley and Alison Stringer who have guided the fungal forays for the last five years.

Membership

Currently recorded membership is now 254 slightly down on last year. We welcome any involvement from our members and look forward to seeing them at Otari-Wilton's Bush. Welcome to new members this year.

Finances

A summarised Financial Results statement is available with this report and audited financial statements for the year 31 March 2011 will be available at the Annual General Meeting. This year shows an excess of income over expenditure of \$9,758.

Items of note are the accounts grant of \$2000 which was repaid by Wilton foundation. Guiding services has also shown another increase due to the ID tours contract.

Education and Newsletter

We were planning to carry out a number of educational activities from the curator's cottage following renovations but these are on hold pending funding.

I would also like to thank Vera Burton and family for the excellent newsletter.

Conclusion

In presenting this report on behalf of the Trust Board I would like to acknowledge and thank fellow trustees, the Otari curator and his staff, Council managers, Trust volunteers and members for their support and co-operation throughout the past year in all the activities of the Trust.

We look forward to enhancing the ability of Otari-Wilton's Bush to achieve its goals. Enjoy the gardens. The staff have done a great job and many new plants are now appearing.

Phil Parnell
Chair



Otari Tours 2012

Photos by Jocelyn Hoskin

Tour group from the Dawn Princess
3 January 2012.



Left: John Dawson with his pointer

Right: John describing tree ferns



Otari Tours 2012



Photos by
Jocelyn Hoskin

Left: Kay Poynton,
Rodney Lewington, Jenny Hickman,
John Dawson and Ron Fountain.
Otari Guides

Below right: Rodney with some of tour
group at Cockayne lookout

Below left: The tour group get a briefing
from Rodney Lewington tour leader.



Above right: A kereru flew by in the fernery

Above left: Rodney Lewington tour leader for the Dawn Princess group

Do you have a favourite Otari photo?

This year Otari is planning a photography competition in the weeks before Open Day. We think this is a great way to get people to look a bit closer at plants through the medium of photography.

The competition will run from the beginning of July until 1 September.

There will be three categories:

- portrait of a NZ native plant photo
- an Otari scene photo
- a young person's photo of NZ plants (15 years and under).

Photos will be digital only.

Professional photographers will be judging the photos and there will be prizes on offer for the winners of each category.

More details will appear on the WCC website shortly (full terms and conditions of entry are still being drafted).

Winners will be announced at the Open Day and all the photos entered will be displayed during the day.

Otari Open Day will be held on Saturday 15 September for 2012.

As well as the photography competition we will be having the plant sale, walks through the forest and gardens, and a presentation by staff - Otari's top 20 greatest hits; a selection of 20 great native plants for your garden.

Otari Awards 2012

This year the recipients were:

Vera and Dave Burton

Vera has been editor of our newsletter for several years and does a wonderful job. She searches around for additional information and is very patient with people not meeting the deadline. Vera is always happy to produce them to suit our timetable.

Dave has been leading glow worm tours for years. He willingly does them as requested in addition to our advertised tours. He makes them informative, interesting and amusing.

Ron Fountain:

Ron has been an active financial member of the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust since its inception in 2001. He is a reliable host volunteer at weekends and a willing worker whenever called upon for such activities as Keep NZ Clean Day and our annual Open Day.

Ron has recently trained as a guide for the many overseas ship tours we have had this summer. He is a cheerful and diligent guide.

Darea Sherratt and Rodney Lewington:

Darea is a weekend host and has been a regular Thursday volunteer for many years. Rodney is a valuable botanical resource for the Trust. He has researched and produced a map of the original names of the tracks in Otari, recorded the trees in the Kauri grove and led a number of walks that have promoted Otari.

This year Rodney has led the cruise ship guiding team.

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Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust's response to Eco-City and Long Term Plan (LTP) proposals by Wellington City Council



On behalf of all our members we wrote submissions and appeared at the public hearings for these two proposals. There were a large number of submissions from a wide range of people. The Eco-City proposal and LTP budget cuts to Otari-Wilton's Bush come as a shock to the Trust board and we were not consulted.

The Eco-City proposal offers few benefits for Otari-Wilton's Bush and potentially a number of new change management issues. The subjective benefits outlined in the proposal are yet to be analysed in detail. (We asked for this to be provided but it was not forthcoming.) Certainly option four (putting the two Botanic Gardens into a group with Wellington Zoo and Zealandia) will involve considerable extra time for Otari-Wilton's Bush staff if it is adopted. We said that this option would involve considerable risk and that the financial problems of Zealandia should be rectified first before any other organisations get involved. Most submitters were against the proposal and there appeared to be considerable culture differences between Zoo and Zealandia supporters. This would inevitably cause issues if option two (Zoo and Zealandia) was adopted and diminish any financial benefits.

The long term plan proposal to exclude Otari-Wilton's Bush improvements as outlined in the landscape plan and the previous LTP are most concerning. We emphasised the contribution that the Trust is keen to make in the Education area and our inability to do this with current facilities. With activities like the Bioblitz, March Seminars, school visits, guided walks and information sheets the Trust can be a key player in the Eco-City proposals outlined in the 2040 plan. I believe we received a good hearing from councillors and the dialogue is continuing.

Phil Parnell

Death and Lunch in Berhampore



A friend was working away quietly at home when suddenly an almighty bang on the front window in his house was heard. On investigation it appeared to be bird strike and he was surprised the window did not break. After searching around his property found a large bird teetering on the spouting which finally revealed itself as a New Zealand Falcon with the remains of a rock pigeon in a very dead state. The falcon proceeded to eat the takeaway lunch and departed as quickly as it came. My friend wasn't planning on chicken for dinner that night!

Phil Parnell

New Zealand Falcon: Photo by Andrew Taylor.

Martin Chapman (1846-1924)



Martin Chapman was born in Karori the third son of Judge Henry Chapman and Catherine nee Brewer (1810-1866). It was in 1846 before his parents had built their house at Homewood which they shifted into in April 1847. Catherine Brewer came from a legal family in London and one of her brothers also came to New Zealand but was killed in a famous duel in early Wellington.

In March 1852 the family regretfully left NZ so that H.S.Chapman could take up the position of Colonial Secretary of Van Dieman's land as Tasmania was then called. In 1854 the family moved again to Melbourne where they remained till 1864.

Martin Chapman started school at Christ's College Tasmania but in March 1858 a Church of England Grammar School was opened in Melbourne and Martin and his brother Charles were enrolled there. In March 1863 Martin passed the examination for the Victorian Civil Service and in January 1864 he joined the Survey Department.

Later that year his father was appointed a Judge in Dunedin, NZ.

It was decided that Catherine Chapman would visit England with the younger members of the family, and that Martin would travel with his father to NZ. Martin was very musical playing both the piano and organ competently. For the first few months back in NZ he was without paid employment.

In November 1865 Martin commenced duties as a judge's secretary. During 1866 Catherine Chapman was returning to NZ with some of her children when the boat sank with the loss of nearly all lives. Subsequently H.S.Chapman remarried and in February 1868 Martin was sent to London to join a younger brother Frederick who was studying law at the Inns of Court. Both Martin and Frederick were called to the Bar on the 1st May 1871.

After travelling on the Continent to improve his French, German and Italian, Martin returned to Dunedin in mid 1874 and was admitted as a solicitor in Dunedin on 22nd July 1875. He arrived in Wellington on the SS Taranaki on the 5th September 1875 and established himself in sole practice. He then joined practice with William Fitzgerald who died in 1888. In November 1889 Martin admitted into partnership L.O.H.Tripp (1863-1957) and this was the start of the legal firm Chapman Tripp which is still in existence.

Martin Chapman possibly lived at the Wellington Club when he first came back to Wellington but in 1882 he built himself a substantial house at 28 Eccleston Hill (formerly Golders Hill) and lived there till his death. Subsequently his brother Sir Frederick Revans Chapman (1849-1936) and his wife Clara lived in the house. When Clara Chapman died in 1940 the house was bought by the Anglican Church and was Bishops Court until about the year 2000.

Martin was very interested in astronomy but the younger brother Fred was interested in plants and growing them, and as will be seen involved his elder brother.

In January 1890 Martin joined Fred on a trip of the government steamer SS Hinemoa on a routine visit to NZ's Southern Outlying Islands. Mr Kirk was a fellow passenger and Fred Chapman wrote an article on the trip for the Proceedings of the NZ Institute.

In 1906 Job Wilton subdivided and sold a part of his farm to a syndicate of Turnbull, Watkins and Jones who surveyed and sold the Wilton Bush subdivision.

Martin Chapman bought 13 acres (6.8 hectares) of this subdivision; later in 1908 he bought a further 3 acres and in 1917 a strip of land next to the school. On this block he developed Chapman's gardens. His gardener James Macdonald lived in a small building on the land.

In 1915 the Dept of Lands and Survey created a Board to manage the Otari Scenic Reserve (formerly the Otari Native Reserve) situated on the Ngaio side of the Kaiwhara Stream. The Board included L Cockayne, Martin Chapman and his legal partner L. Tripp. The Board decided the Reserve should be run by the Wellington City Council which subsequently bought it and started developing it in 1918. Chapman retained ownership of his land till his death in 1924.



James Macdonald remained in the area till 1930. Chapman's gardens included a number of exotic trees a few of which are still growing in the Reserve.

Martin Chapman developed the land and prepared a building site, possibly remembering the work done by his parents in developing Homewood in the 1840s. This project was no doubt supported by his brother Fred Chapman who conducted a legal practice in Dunedin for 31 years until he was made a Judge in 1903. A few years later he returned to live in Wellington.

In 1912 Martin Chapman retired from his legal practice which enabled him to spend more time on his hobbies and gardens. Martin never married but in his later years spent a lot of his time visiting his nephews in Australia. In his later life he shared his home with Charles Arthur Knapp.

A small granite memorial to the H.S. Chapman family listing Martin and Fred among others can be seen at the rear of St Mary's Anglican church at Karori

THE TWO POHUTAKAWA TREES

A well known pohutakawa tree on The Terrace was originally planted in the grounds of the Wellington Club possibly when Martin was its President in 1911/12. A second tree was planted at Otari in Chapman's Gardens on the 26th April 1923 by the then Mayor of Wellington W.R. Wright in honour of George 6th and Elizabeth Bowes Lyon on their wedding day. In the reconstruction of part of the grounds of Otari Wilton's Bush Reserve in the year 2000 the tree was successfully moved to the car park.

It has been maintained that the two trees are from the Kermadec Islands.

Of the exotic trees planted by Martin Chapman, only one tree a *Quercus ilex* beside the Information Centre remains. A palm tree and rhododendron tree have probably died within the last 10 years. A gum tree mentioned in the booklet **Otari nature trail, 1985. p32** was possibly removed in the redesigning of the car park in 1999

References:

Chapman, F.R. The outlying islands south of New Zealand. N.Z. Institute. Transactions v23; p.491-522; 1891.

Gore, Ross. Chapman, Tripp & Co the first 100 years. 1975.

Frederick Revans Chapman 1849-1936

Fred was Martin's younger brother. The two brothers were called to the Bar in London on the same day- 1st May 1871. Subsequently Fred returned to New Zealand where he was admitted to the NZ profession in October 1872. For the next 31 years he conducted a busy legal practice in Dunedin. In January 1879 he married at All Saints church Clara Jane Cook, the daughter of an English solicitor practicing in Dunedin. They were to have five children including two sons who died without leaving children. In 1903 Fred was made a Judge and from 1907 he was living in Wellington.

Fred had a special interest in NZ plants including carefully growing some collected on his trip around the southern islands in 1890.

He had a species of manuka *Leptospermum scoparium* var *Chapmani* named after him. He also discovered 2 species of *Celmisia* including *Celmisia campbellensis*. As he was responsible for organising the sale of Martin's Otari land to the City Council to form part of the Otari Plant Museum it is possible that the collection of subantarctic plants which grew formerly at the Banks Entrance were derived from Fred Chapman's collection. Unfortunately the planting plans for that period have recently become unavailable for checking at Otari.

Sandra Clark



NZ Forest gecko at Otari on a rock wall
below the lookout *Photo: Phil Parnell*

**Photos from the Denniston
Plateau Collection Trip with
Rewi Elliot and
Finn Michalak**



Centre left: The plateau with Mt
Williams in the distance.

Centre right: Denniston plateau—plants in the
photo are mainly *Halocarpus biformis* with
Dracophyllum, *Chionochloa rubra* &
Metrosideros umbellata

Below left: *Drosera spatulata*.

Left below: *Celmisia armstrongii*





Plants from the Denniston Plateau.

Left above: *Aciphylla hookeri*

Right above: *Astelia sp*

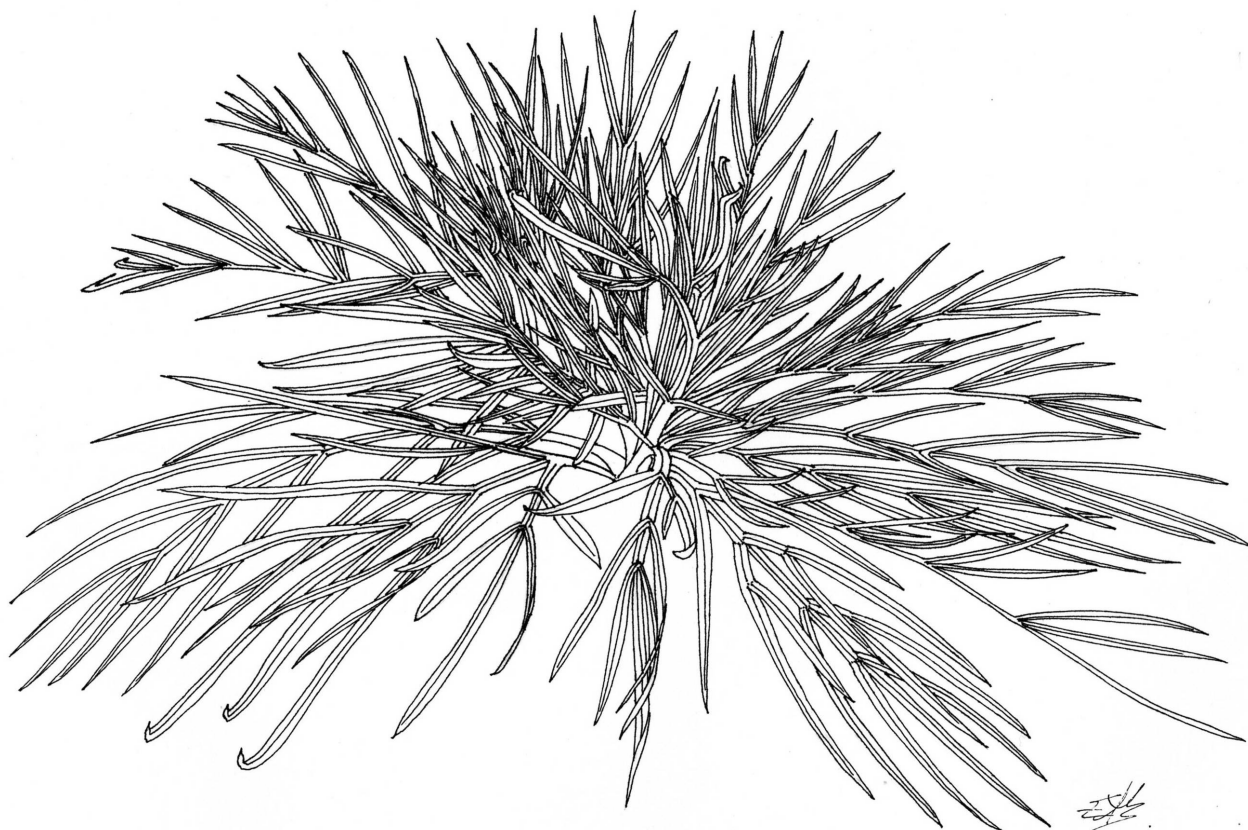
Centre left: *Aciphylla hookeri*

Centre Right: probably a small *Celmisia*

Bottom left: *Phyllachne sp*

Bottom right: *Aciphylla hookeri*

Those of you who enjoy these drawings by Eleanor Burton may be interested to know she will be holding an exhibition of coloured drawings of *Celmisia* spp.
Department of Conservation House, Manners Street.
From Friday 15 June



Aciphylla dissecta

Aciphylla is a genus of about 40 species, all but one endemic to New Zealand. It belongs to the Apiaceae, or carrot family, members of which tend to be palatable. This may explain the spines. *Aciphylla dissecta* is a small speargrass endemic to the Tararua Range, found in the montane to subalpine zone. Like all *Aciphylla* species it is dioecious, that is sexes on separate plants. *Aciphylla dissecta* can be seen at Otari in the Brockie Rock Garden. It is not readily available for cultivation, and prefers a deep well drained root run.

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:

Please send this completed form with your cheque to:

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