

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## News and Views March, 2013

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

<b>The first Saturday of each month. 9am</b>	<b>Plant care</b> is on the first Saturday of each month. . Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044.
<b>Tuesday 5 March 7.30pm</b>	<b>March Seminar.</b> (details see p.5). Pollination mechanisms, new species description and conservation of New Zealand terrestrial orchids. <i>Carlos Lehnebach</i>
<b>Tuesday 12 March 7.30pm</b>	<b>March Seminar.</b> (details see p.5). "In amongst the marram grass and iceplants – restoring coastal dune vegetation" <i>Stephen Hartley</i>
<b>Tuesday 19 March 7.30pm</b>	<b>March Seminar.</b> (details see p.5). " Outcomes of the 2013 CITES conference". The outcomes of the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. Also information about trade in flora. <i>Wendy Jackson</i>
<b>Sunday 23 March 2pm</b>	"Otari's ferns - everything you wanted to know". <i>Leon Perrie</i> will take a talk and walk around the fernery.
<b>Tuesday 26 March 7.30pm</b>	<b>March Seminar.</b> (details see p5.). Birds of Otari. Everyone knows about the wonderful plants at Otari . Hugh will introduce the amazing bird-life of the reserve . <i>Hugh Robertson</i>
<b>Sunday 28 April 2pm</b>	"How to propagate native plants". <i>Rewi Elliot and Finn</i>
<b>Sunday 26 May 2pm</b>	Fungal Foray. <i>Geoff Ridley and Alison Stringer</i>

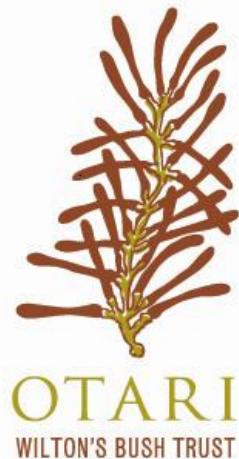
## **Chairman's Message**

Hi everyone,

What a great summer we have been having.

Parts of the region are drying out fast.

Today is the first cooler day in Wellington for a while!



The gardens and bush reserve are looking great with lots of visitors both local and overseas. Rodney and his team have been doing a great job on the guiding, one day last week exceeding 130 people on tours at Otari-Wilton's Bush. Thank you to all the guides who are putting in a sterling effort this year.

The three new Otari-Wilton's Bush trust initiatives covered in my last note have all made progress towards their goals:

The prose and poetry posters are now completed and have been placed in the information centre for all to see. We intend to use these in different ways and are looking for suitable means to store these when not on display. We have had favourable comments from visitors and many local kids looking at them on the way to school.

Recently we had a celebration of the opening of the treasure trail and a copy of the Kingfisher Hilton poster was presented to John Dawson.

The orchid conservation project is well underway with the DNA testing of fungi samples being done at Massey University facilities.

The Otari staff trip south for plant acquisition is currently in the final planning stages of permit applications etc.

The Board has also put together the excellent March seminar series and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Please feel free to contact a Board member if transport is a problem.

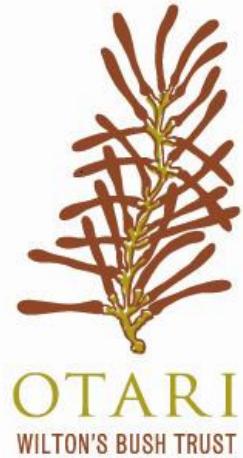
Thanks to all the volunteers who work hard to make Otari-Wilton's Bush a success and I am sure your efforts are appreciated by the staff and Council alike.

Phil Parnell  
Chair Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

# Otari Report

Kia Ora koutou

We have had a truly fantastic summer here at Otari. Plenty of flowering and fruiting and good growth on the plantings we have carried out over the past couple of years means the gardens have been in top form over summer.



Late last year representatives from the New Zealand Gardens Trust visited to have our title of Garden of National Significance reassessed. Of course we passed with flying colours and remain a Garden of National Significance. The New Zealand Gardens Trust website ([www.gardens.org.nz](http://www.gardens.org.nz)) is well worth a visit if you are interested in visiting top gardens around the country.

Our new parterre garden is settling in well and we hope to carry on work down in this lower area to entice visitors down from the Cockayne lookout. Also new over summer has been the installation of five new map boards at the entrances to Otari, and an additional map board has been placed on the outside of the Information Centre. These are certainly an improvement on the last map boards.

International visitors seem to be at an all time high. We have had the generous help of the Trust guides showing around hundreds of people from all over the world visiting Wellington aboard the cruise ships you may have seen parked in the harbour. We have also had extended stays from horticulture students from France and England, one coming from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where I plan to visit later this year.

During February we undertook a new opportunity with our first BGANZ internship. BGANZ is the 'Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand' - the professional body representing the interests of botanic gardens in Australia and New Zealand. Eden Gray was the successful applicant for the BGANZ internship. Eden is studying zoology at Otago University and while here at Otari looked at how we might interpret animal-plant interactions. Eden produced material which we may develop into a pamphlet in the future.

We have been working on several endangered species from the Wellington region over the last 2-3 years and this work has begun to show some success. In particular, Kirks' tree daisy and both the small leaf and large leaf milk tree have been growing well here. Next year we hope to begin translocation of these into the forest at Otari and will return some to the wild populations in the greater Wellington region.

Kind regards,

Rewi Elliot

Curator/Manager

Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve

Email: [rewi.elliot@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:rewi.elliot@wcc.govt.nz)

# Trust Board 2012 - 2013



## The Board of Trustees for the current year is:

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.	pebuxton@xtra.co.nz Phone: 472 3456
Wilbur Dovey	40 Warwick St., Wilton.	<a href="mailto:cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz">cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz</a> Phone: 499 1044
Jannine McCabe	40 Worcester Street, Wilton.	<a href="mailto:jannine_mccabe@yahoo.co.nz">jannine_mccabe@yahoo.co.nz</a> Phone 475 5494
Ian Stockwell	2 Paisley Terrace, Karori .	<a href="mailto:stockwellian@hotmail.com">stockwellian@hotmail.com</a> 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*

## A Reminder from the Treasurer.

Subscriptions for the next financial year fall due in March. If you pay early you won't be plagued by reminders

## The Trust Annual General Meeting.

This important meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 May at 7.15pm

At this meeting there will be the election of Trustees. We would be delighted to hear from any member who is interested in becoming a Trustee . For more information contact Phil Parnell or Margaret Crimp

**OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST**

**Presents**

## **The March Seminars**



### **March 5     “Pollination mechanisms, new species description and conservation of New Zealand terrestrial orchids”.**

There are over a 100 species of orchids in New Zealand. Most of them are terrestrial and only a few are epiphytic, growing on trees and occasionally in rock crevices. It is commonly believed that many of NZ orchids self pollinate and that highly specialised pollination mechanism such as those reported in tropical orchids are lacking in New Zealand. This talk will provide an overview of pollination studies conducted in the widespread Spider Orchid, *Nematoceras trilobum*, and results of expeditions to the mountains of the North and South Island where several potentially new species were collected. Also, preliminary results of a study to implement orchid symbiotic germination techniques in NZ to propagate endangered orchids and preserve their fungal partner will be presented.    *Carlos Lehnebach*

### **March 12     “In amongst the marram grass and iceplants – restoring coastal dune vegetation”.**

Sand dunes are ever-changing, fragile ecosystems. Habitat to unique and highly-adapted plants and animals, they are especially vulnerable to disturbance, erosion and invasion by exotic plants. In this illustrated talk I will review some of the common and unusual flora found in the greater Wellington region and describe the results from several projects investigating the “how, why and what” of sand dune restoration projects.    *Stephen Hartley*

### **March 19     “Outcomes of the 2013 CITES Conference and Trade in Flora”**

“Outcomes of the 2013 CITES conference”. The outcomes of the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. Also information about trade in flora.    *Wendy Jackson*

### **March 26     “Birds of Otari”**

Birds of Otari everyone knows about the wonderful plants at Otari . Hugh will introduce the amazing bird-life of the reserve. *Hugh Robertson*

**Where: Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre**

**Time: 7.30pm.**

**Gold coin donation**

## Otari Awards

The Board is calling for nominations for the Otari awards. These are granted for distinguished volunteer service.

The number of awards will be limited to no more than three each year.

Only financial members, or the staff, are eligible to nominate volunteer workers for these awards. Nominees must have made a considerable contribution to the work of the Trust and they must also be financial members of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.

The Chairman of the Board will appoint a panel of no more than three to make the final selection. It will contain one independent (non-Board) member. The selection panel will be chaired by the Chairman of the Board.

Nominations should be submitted in writing by 31 March to the Secretary of the Board.

The awards will take the form of a framed certificate personalised for each of the recipients.

The awards will be presented at the AGM in May, or at a special event.



## OTARI NEEDS YOU!!

**Do you like talking to people in beautiful natural surroundings?**

**Would you like to help visitors to the Reserve make the most of the experience?**

**Would you like to learn more about the native flora and fauna?**

**If the answers are yes, weekend hosting at Otari-Wilton's Bush is the volunteer job for you!**

**To learn more about hosting at Otari-Wilton's Bush,**

**join us for our training day**

**Saturday March 2, 9.30am – Midday**

**For more details, contact:**

**Rewi Elliot on**

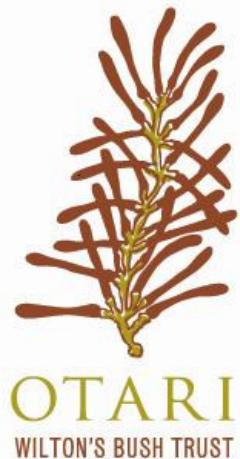
**Email: [rewi.elliot@wcc.govt.co.nz](mailto:rewi.elliot@wcc.govt.co.nz)**

## Glow worm walks at Otari-Wiltons bush

Advance notice for your diary.

Walks on Friday July 12 and 26.

Meet at the Otari Information Centre. at 6.30pm - early enough for parents to bring young children.



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.

Dave Burton

## Treasure Trail Opening

An opportunity was taken to have a soft opening of the Treasure Trail recently.

The treasure trail has been a brainchild of Dr John Dawson for some time now.

The Trust together with the Otari-Wilton's Bush management wanted to have a small gathering of funders (the Trust , Terawhiti Charitable trust and and Winstanley family) with Dr John Dawson's family from Las Vegas (including grandchildren) to try out the final draft of a brochure.

Rewi and his team have put in the posts but numbers and wording are being completed following testing. It is the trail we use for most short tours of Otari-Wilton's Bush and is designed to cover treasures(toanga) of the New Zealand Native flora without involving any steps.

An afternoon tea was enjoyed by all and a few short speeches were made to recognise the completion of this stage of the project.

We also celebrated the hanging of the poetry and prose from Louise Wrightson and presented the Kingfisher Hilton copy to John to thanks him for his efforts.

Phil Parnell



## Treasure Trail Opening

Above left: Rewi launching the treasure Trail with Noah Dawson, Brett Dawson, John and Erika Dawson. Lucas Dawson in front.

Above right: Rewi, Finn Michalak and John dawson with Lucas

Right: John Dawson receiving his copy of Louise Wrightson's poem dedicated to him . On the right is Tony Chisholm

Below left: Phil introducing proceedings

Below right: On the Treasure Trail

Photos by Wilbur Dovey and Eleanor Burton



## Plants from Mt Robert.

These alpine plants ( some of them quite unusual) were photographed by Eleanor Burton when she climbed Mt Robert (Nelson Lakes national Park) in January.

Top left: *Celmisia sessiliflora*

Top right: *Aciphylla monroi*

Centre left: *Lobelia roughii*

Centre right: *Epilobium* sp.

Bottom left: *Notothlaspi rosulatum* (penwiper plant)

Bottom right: *Celmisia laricifolia*





***Phyllocladus trichomanoides***

Tanekaha, celery pine

Tanekaha is a large tree, and can reach 25 metres in a favourable spot. It is found from Te Paki on North Cape to the Ruahines in the North Island, and in Nelson and Marlborough in the South Island. The ‘leaves’ of this genus are actually flattened branchlets. As tanekaha is a Gymnosperm seeds are borne on small cones; male cones are reddish and rather attractive, occurring late winter/early spring. Tanekaha can be seen at Otari from the deck outside the information centre, and at the Banks Entrance.

(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:

Please send this completed form with your cheque to:

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

Or pay by internet banking: .

Westpac Bank 030518: 0205713:00 :50. Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust. Please add your name for a reference.