

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views June, 2016

Web site: www.otariwiltonsbush.org.nz. For all walks meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane unless otherwise stated. Walks with talks first will start at the Leonard Cockayne Centre. Unless otherwise stated walks are free to Trust members, otherwise \$5. 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, 499 1044.
Sunday 26 June 2pm	"NZ Botanical Oddities or Things Ain't Wot They Seem to be" "Is the cabbage tree really a cabbage? In this easy walk hear about plants with common names that do not reflect their true identity" An easy 1.5 hour stroll. <i>Leader Roy Slack</i>
Friday 22 July 7pm	Glow worm walk. See p 4 for details. You'll need good shoes, warm clothing, and a torch. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Information Centre. Bookings are essential - phone the Treehouse 04 499 1400. <i>Leader: Dave Burton</i>
Sunday 24 July 2pm	Evolutionary processes leading to speciation This 90-minute guided walk will introduce you to some of the species of New Zealand's plants that have evolved through evolutionary processes such as convergent evolution and adaptive radiation. It will be particularly helpful to Year 13 Biology students, and to science and biology teachers who want to learn more stories about New Zealand's special plants. <i>Leader: Bev Abbott</i> Year 12 and Year 13 students free. Adults \$5.
Friday 12 August 7pm	Glow Worm Walk Details see above (July 22). And p 4. <i>Leader: Dave Burton</i>
Sunday 28 August 2pm	Pigments, Perfumes, and Poisons Walk and Talk An easy 1.5 hour stroll looking at some native plants that produce various dyes, perfumes, and poisons. Courtesy of the Fragrifert Parfumeur (at the top of the Cable car) some native plant perfumes will be demonstrated. <i>Leader Chris Moore</i>

Chairman's Message



Welcome to the cooler seasons of the year and time for fruiting plants to shine (check out *Melicytus obovatus* , near the large Ngaio and Kowhai on the Southern-most path beside lawn). White fruits underneath black upside. After a brilliant summer and autumn rain has finally arrived in force, much to the relief of our dedicated staff.

Still plenty of visitors including new families enjoying the gardens, picnic areas and wildlife with the native botanic garden getting great afternoon sun time to put the winter gear on and watch out for slippery paths. Walking sticks are available at weekends from hosts thanks to Geoffrey Moss one of our members. Thanks also to our volunteers. Most importantly wear the right footwear.

The Trust just had the Annual General Meeting and I have pleasure in welcoming Jane Humble as one of our trustees.

The Trust Board has also assisted Otari with a substantial grant for signage and interpretation of the new wetland and adoptions gardens below the Cockayne Lookout. The staff have been busy and we welcome some new members to the team and some returning staff (Finn Michalak).

We hope you enjoy your time at this special place.

The March seminars which took place in April were again well attended. Thank you to all who came along, thanks to Margaret Crimp for the organising and to Roger Crimp for technical assistance.

We have our usual program of walks so check out the program and come along soon. I would also like to highlight one of our members Dr David Burton of glowworm walk fame who this year retired after 50 years teaching at the VUW School of Biological Sciences.

I would also like to make mention of the fact that our Curator, Rewi Elliott, celebrates 10 years at Otari this year. We thank him from all our members for all the work he has done to bring Otari into the second Millennium!

One of roles of Otari is conservation of plants that are rare or on the DOC endangered plant list. Rewi and his team are working on several of these currently and they can be seen in the nursery. Ask the staff for help during the week if you are interested.

Enjoy the reserve during the winter. Bush always seems better just after rain and now is the time to observe fungi in the bush and gardens. Stay safe and look forward to seeing you at OWB soon.

Cheers
Phil Parnell
Chair

STOP PRESS: The date for Open day this year is 24th September.

Otari Report



Kia ora koutou,

Winter is finally here and has brought some much needed rain. We began to really suffer in the summer and autumn drought with the effects becoming obvious as plants began to wilt and even die. On the down side as the rain seems to have come all at once we have had several track washouts, and it's timely to remind you that wet tracks, timber surfaces and sloping lawns all have potential to become slippery. Good footwear and cautiousness is advised when on the forest tracks.

Another reminder on the health and safety front is that there is now a first aid kit available for public use in the Information Centre (it the meeting room kitchenette), along with an emergency grab bag if required for any accidents out in the forest.

Out in the gardens we have begun planting in earnest. If you have visited recently you will have noticed work on new gardens below the lookout. One of these is a new wetland garden. While we are under no illusions about the dryness of the hillside the gardens are situated on, we will be developing the garden to represent wetlands generally and will be growing a suite of plants here that we know will be able to cope when the dryer months hit.

Wetlands are a rather forgotten habitat and many people under-rate their importance. They support a greater diversity of birds, fish, invertebrates and plants than most other habitats and perform vital ecosystem services such as improving water quality and reducing flood risks.

Over 90 percent of New Zealand's wetlands have been drained or filled and many wetland species are threatened with extinction. They are also essential in managing climate change. Healthy peat bogs are year-round sinks of 2-5 tonnes of carbon per hectare – locking it up in their soil indefinitely.

Our wetland garden will fill a similar function to wild wetlands. It is positioned here to act as a sink, slowing rain water runoff from the top of the gardens. After rain falls on the gardens and paths above it is channelled into the wetland via paths and underground drainage pipes. The wetland garden absorbs water into the soil and plants, releasing excess water slowly. Previously we have had a lot of garden water runoff contributing to streamside erosion in the forest below. We will be installing a boardwalk through the new wetland garden in July/August and new interpretive signage will follow over the next 6 months.

For more information about wetlands, visit the National Wetland Trust of New Zealand, www.wetlandtrust.org.nz.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Finn Michalak has been re-appointed into the position of Curator at Otari. Finn formerly held this position but decided to have a break and spent the five months working for Greater Wellington Regional Council carrying out vegetation surveys across the Wellington region. Finn is looking forward to catching up with those of you he knows and working with you again in the Curator role.

Kind regards,

Rewi Elliot,

Team Manger, Otari-Wilton's Bush,

rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz

Trust Board 2016 - 2017

The Board has retained members from last year and has been joined by Jane Humble.



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	
Bev Abbott	40 Pembroke Road, Northland	bevabbott@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 475 8468
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
Jane Humble	16 Iazard Road, Khandallah	jhumble16@gmail.com	Phone: 971 6970
Ian Stockwell	2 Paisley Terrace, Karori .	stockwellian@hotmail.com	Phone: 476 3630
Cathy Wylie	43 Huntleigh Park Way, Ngaio.	Cathy.wylie@nzcer.org.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 938 8207. davee42@clear.net.nz

Glow Worm Walks at Otari

Walks on Fridays 22nd July and 12th August at 7pm

Glow-worms are alive and well and living in Otari – they prefer a moist, vertical bank, dark and sheltered from the wind so that they can hang their sticky-thread nets and light their tails as a lure for midges. You'll need good shoes, warm clothing, and a torch. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Information Centre.

Bookings are essential - phone the Treehouse 04 499 1400.

Cost: \$5, children under 15 free.

Leader: Dave Burton

Photos wanted!

The Otari collection has photos of the early days and again photos of recent years. Does anyone have photos of the "middle years" so that all the changes can be documented? If you can help please contact a Board member.

Otari Awards

The recipients were:

Chris Moore: For a number of years Chris has been organising some of our monthly walks. Chris develops an interesting theme, researching the topic thoroughly, enabling him to lead groups on informative walks. Chris is also a guide for the tours in the cruise ship season as well as the Year 13 school tours.

Peter Buxton: Peter has been a valuable member of the Trust Board for 10 years and he has been a willing weekend host for even longer. Peter is also a guide for the cruise ship tours we run over summer. His commitment to Otari makes him a worthy recipient of an award



In memory of...

Sadly we have recently lost two staunch members of the Trust:

Robert Fantl lived on Wilton Road for many years in a house he designed himself. He was one of the children rescued by Sir Nicholas Winton who brought six train loads of children to safety from Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II. From England Bob came to NZ. Here he met his mother and sister. He became an architect designing, amongst other buildings, Massey House. He was a leading nationwide environmental activist. He cofounded COENCO, a nationwide collective of more than 100 environmental groups. This later became ECO. Most importantly for us he fought against a major road cutting a swath through Otari-Wilton's Bush. He took the WCC to the Court of Appeal in 1983-84 and won. Bob was very often to be seen walking in Otari and was always happy to stop for a chat.

John Riseborough was a long-time resident of this area. He had a great interest in Otari and had many interesting stories to tell of past days. He wrote articles for the newsletter sharing stories of growing up in Wilton with details of the area's history. He also made suggestions for ideas that the Trust might get involved in. He recently handed over photos and maps for the Otari collection.

Both Bob and John will be remembered with great fondness.

Lichens, Mosses and Liverworts

Saturday 1st October, 9.30am.

Can't tell a moss from a liverwort, don't know if it is a lichen. Learn by doing.

Otari Trust members are invited to join the Wellington Botanical Society to learn about lichens, mosses, liverworts and hornworts.

We will take an exploratory walk in Otari Wilton's Bush for about two hours collecting a few and getting a feel for their various habitats. Rodney Lewington, Carol West and Peter Beveridge will guide and assist us. The rest of the morning will be spent in the Leonard Cockayne Centre with microscopes, looking to identify our collections to genus and even species level. Depending on the weather we may take another walk in Otari or continue until about 3pm on identification. Bring a hand lens, a note book and pen and your lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.



Icicle tooth fungus

Hericium coralloides Seen on tawa, on Circular Walkway stream side.

Photo: Phil Parnell



2017 Calendar

Calling all Trust members who have photo images of Otari, the plants of Otari and people enjoying Otari. We are putting together another calendar in landscape format although two portrait photos could be put together. You will need to be able to deliver a high resolution image but please send in any version you have for a panel to choose from.

We will need these by July 20th. Send to landy@xtra.co.nz in the first instance with contact details.

Otari Staff

Over the next few issue we hope to have members of the Otari staff introduce themselves. Here is one of the newer members:

Kia ora koutou

Ko Nasir Mulligan ahau

Waikato te Awa

Maunga Tautari te Maunga

Raukawa Te Kaokao o Patetere me Te Aitanga a Mahaki nga iwi

Paparamu te marae

No Putaruru ahau

I'm Nasir Mulligan. Part of my childhood upbringing was in the South Waikato I grew up around native plants learning about Rongoa or working with native plant at the marae or the bush. It wasn't till many years later that I rediscovered my interest and passion for native plants. A horticultural apprenticeship through the Wellington City Council became available, and a few years later I was lucky to become a full time gardener for the Wellington Botanic Garden.

As part of that role I have been transferred to Otari for eight months to gain some further experience. I've always had a strong interest in native plants and having the opportunity to work at Otari is not only a dream come true but an inspiration to be working around this vast collection. I also spend a lot of time after work on the waka ama canoe (outrigger canoe) out and about in the harbour, or spending time in my home area checking in on the bush or restoration projects.

I hope to learn as much as I can in the duration of being here and meeting you all.

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

Curator's walk for International Botanic Garden day



Rewi took around twenty people on a guided walk to celebrate this day and they were rewarded with sunny weather And an interesting talk.

Photos taken by Phil Parnell show:

- 1 Rewi discussing Pingao (*Ficinia spiralis*) the at risk sand dune plant.
- 2 Seed for germination from plant collecting trips
- 3 *Pimelea acuta* a Nationally critical threatened species undergoing regeneration from seed collected in Wanganui (in partnership with DOC).



Links to newsletters:

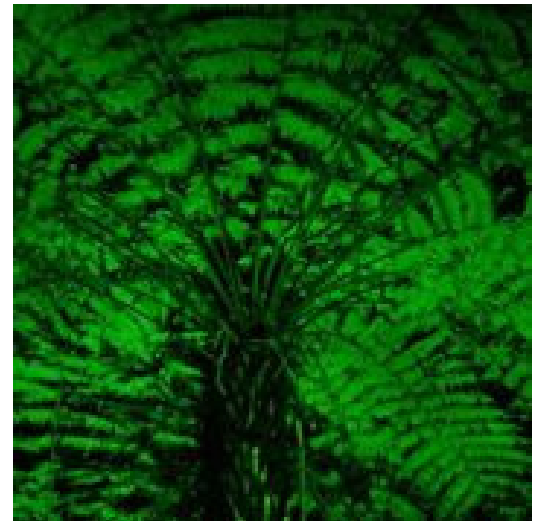
Anyone wanting to look at any of our newsletters from the very first can go to the Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council library to view them. The link is library@wrhpc.org.nz In this library you can view the newsletters of other organisations.

For those wanting to see the newsletter of a group downstream from Otari - the Trelissick Park Group - Find the latest 'Gorge Gazette' with news about restoration in Trelissick Park, in the Ngaio Gorge area the website is www.trelissickpark.org.nz

Wellington's NZ Festival featured **For the Birds,**
a visual art show in Otari-Wilton bush.
These photos were taken by Phil Parnell.



Olearia albida in the
Canterbury Border



Tree fern, Ponga

Bird call
devices
in the
Fernery.



The Cockayne Centre



Ngaio tree at the end of the Cockayne
Lawn



Brachyglottis greyii

This is a coastal shrub found around the east Wairarapa coast from the Pahaoa River to Cape Turakirae. It makes an attractive rounded shrub with grey-green and white foliage, and is fairly common in cultivation. Flowers are bright yellow daisies, in summer. It is very hardy, coping well with dry situations and exposed sites, and being amenable to clipping. It can be seen at Otari in the Asteraceae border.

Asteraceae border.

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

Or pay by internet banking: .

Westpac Bank 030518: 0205713: 000 Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust. Please add your name for a reference.