

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views December, 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. No plant care in January. It will resume 4th February – the first Saturday in February. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 499 1044.
Sunday 29 January 2pm	Botanical Graves Andy MacKay was the first curator /manager of Otari and lived in what is now the Leonard Cockayne Centre. He worked in Otari from its inception as a Native Botanic Garden in 1926 until 1946 and now rests in the Karori Cemetery. We will walk up the Kaiwharawhara Stream track to the cemetery where we will see the grave of Andy McKay and maybe some others of botanical interest. Return via the Lower Blue trail. About two hours of on track walking. <i>Leaders: Bev Abbott, Chris Moore and Rodney Lewington.</i>
Sunday 26 February 2pm	NZ Botanical Oddities "Is the cabbage tree really a cabbage?" In this easy walk hear about plants with common names that do not reflect their true identity. A 1.5 hour stroll. <i>Leader Roy Slack</i>
Tuesdays March 7.30pm	Tuesdays in March March seminars, speakers to be arranged.

Chairman's Message



Spring has been challenging for all in the Wellington area and summer is upon us again.

Otari is looking great at present both the forest, the revegetation areas and the Botanic gardens have trees and plants in flower and many visitors are taking advantage of the facilities. Birds are prolific and bees of all kinds seem to be enjoying the environment.

Hopefully the tracks will dry out quickly from the recent rains but care should always be taken and suitable footwear worn especially on the steeper tracks.

The Trust has held walks for the public and provided hosts on weekends since its formation, however we are still happy to have more volunteers. Hosting is a good place to start if you want to learn a little more about how Otari operates, meet some of our visitors from a range of cultures and help them enjoy our facilities. Talk to any Board member or talk to a host between 11-4pm at weekends.

The Trust has again produced a colourful calendar for 2017 available at Otari from hosts for \$15 including envelope. Thanks to all who assisted with this effort. Please use these as Christmas presents. There is still plenty of time to get them overseas as all mail now goes by air.

The Cockayne centre is getting good use and even the information centre has seen staff from WCC using it when other WCC building assets have earthquake issues. Of course they find the surroundings delightful as we do.

The Trust Board has submitted on the Open spaces plan for Wellington City and raised several issues that we will continue to pursue to ensure the recreation and reflection in Otari continues as it has done for 110 years this year.



The Trust congratulates Dr John Dawson on his HH Allan Mere award from the NZ Botanical Society. The Trust was happy to frame the award for John and present it to him and his family recently. The Trust is currently looking at setting up a Dr John Dawson Education Fund. More details will be available shortly.

The Allan Mere award is presented to Dr John Dawson by Anthony Wright, President NZ Botanical Society, and Curator Canterbury Museum

Thank you to all volunteers who contributed to the success of Otari this year and I look forward to seeing you at the WCC Xmas function. I would like to wish you and your family all the best for the festive season and look forward to seeing you at Otari soon.

Regards
Phil Parnell
Chair Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.

Otari Report

Kia ora koutou,

What a time we are having in Wellington with the earthquakes and flooding. I hope you and your families are safe and well. We have survived relatively unscathed here at Otari with some minor damage to track surfaces that will be attended to soon.

It was with sadness that we heard that Liz Dovey passed away last week. Liz has been a committed Otari Trust member and volunteer for many years helping us with hosting, gardening and revegetation work. Liz's good humour and help will be missed here.

The gardens are looking great at the moment with all the rain we are having. Plantings carried out over the last six months are growing fast and there are lots of plants in full flower. Plants are showing good growth and some of the changes we implemented in the last 6 months are starting to bed in.

In the lower entrance to the fernery you will notice a new installation of pou (posts) mark the entrance. Wood carvers from the Naenae Menz Shed shaped the pou with representations of New Zealand's flora and fauna. The pou are made from timber taken from storm damaged trees in the Otari forest.

On the conservation front we are making some good progress with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and other botanic gardens around New Zealand (collectively BGANZ) towards a National Ex-situ Plant Conservation Strategy for New Zealand. We carried out a workshop here in Wellington in November to discuss what a strategy might look like. The workshop followed on from a meeting held in Wellington in May where DOC and BGANZ agreed to enter into an agreement in which:

- BGANZ supports DOC's in-situ indigenous plant conservation utilising BGANZ ex-situ capabilities, and
- BGANZ and DOC will work together to develop and implement a national ex-situ plant conservation strategy.

In the future we hope to see this work helping co-ordinate ex-situ conservation activities across New Zealand, avoiding duplication, identifying gaps and helping share knowledge.

We have also entered in to an agreement with Zealandia to work together on translocating kohurangi (*Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*) back in to Otari and Zealandia. We know that kohurangi once occurred in the area and would like to see it here again. We are planning to carry out some planting trials early next year once the temperatures start to cool down. We have also applied to Victoria University to have a student work on this over summer and it looks like we have interest from Master's degree students. This ties in nicely with plans in 2018 to release tītipounamu (rifleman) into Otari in conjunction with a release into Zealandia next year.

We look forward to having you visit Otari over the summer. Please stop and say hello to staff you see.

Kind regards,

Rewi Elliot

Team Manager

Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve

Email: rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz



Trust Board 2016 - 2017



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 Izard 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

Thanks to Open Day helpers

Many thanks to all you wonderful members who help in so many ways on Open Day. Thanks to those who bring along or leave various tempting delicacies for us to sell. Thanks to those who turn up to help with packing the plants, and working on the barbecue, the cake stall, coffee stall and the cards and raffle stand.

This year we were again lucky with the weather. People sat out on the deck with their cakes and coffee or delicious sausages from the barbecue.

Raffle winners

1. Liz Steer from Kilbirnie took the plants
2. Ashley Elinoff, John Dawson's book Nature Guide to the NZ Forest
3. Leo Brett Kelly very pleased he had won Athol's bowl.

The Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust Calendar is available now!

Cost: \$15

At weekends the hosts will be able to help you between 11am and 4pm. If you wish to purchase from Monday to Friday you will have to make arrangements to meet staff or Trust members.



Liz Dovey



Liz Dovey – Otari Thursday volunteer, Otari weekend host, Otari monthly plant care volunteer – Liz was a volunteer in almost all the Otari activities and gave each one her dedication.

Otari was not the only place where Liz volunteered but we at Otari knew her and loved her so this short tribute will concentrate on her work at Otari.

As you all knew or guessed Liz was born in Scotland. She studied at Edinburgh University and became a meteorologist. She worked in remote places such as the Shetlands. Her sister came to NZ and stayed marrying a New Zealander. Her parents and Liz followed settling in Rotorua in 1963. Liz worked at the Forest Research Institute before moving to Wellington where she became NZ's second woman weather forecaster in 1970.

Even back in the seventies Liz was a volunteer. She met Wilbur when they were both volunteers at the Catacombs Drop in Centre at St. Peters. Thirty years later she

became deeply involved in Otari. When the revegetation programme in the valley started Liz was there and has been involved ever since with the monthly plant care group work. Even when she was not strong enough to go along the valley to weed or plant she would bring the morning tea down to the Information Centre for the workers. Liz was well known for her shortbread!

She has been a Thursday Volunteer for 16 years, always one of the last to stop for morning tea and one of the last to stop when time was up.

Liz joined the weekend hosts in 2008. She was a wonderful welcomer asking visitors if she could help, with that soft Scots accent.

Come Open Day every year Liz was there manning the cake stall.

Even as her health deteriorated Liz would stoically turn up to welcome or to weed, still with a smile saying that she was fine.

One of our hosts commented "Liz has had a great impact the way she effectively encouraged people to be involved with activities such as Otari. She was always interesting and interested". Another mentioned "Liz's positive attitude and enthusiasm for everything she was involved in". This is all so true. We all loved her and she will be greatly missed.

Lizard Survey at Otari Wilton's Bush

We (EcoGecko Consultants) are undertaking a lizard survey at Otari-Wilton Bush Reserve this summer. This survey is one of 10 lizard surveys, happening at 10 different reserves within the Wellington region this summer, and is funded by the Wellington City Council. Our WCC contact person is Myfanwy Emeny.

We are interested in involving the community in these surveys - specifically the existing community groups and local schools. Surveys involve setting up lizard surveying equipment during November or early December, and then coming back to check this equipment for lizards about 3 months later. They also involve work searching by hand for lizards during both the day and night. Volunteers are welcome to help with as much or as little work as they want. We will also be running a free workshop for interested volunteers on lizard identification, GPS use, and lizard handling. Volunteers do not need any previous lizard experience - just a 'can-do' attitude :)



The day for setting up at Otari is Sunday 11 December 11am

Full training will be given on the day, and no experience is necessary, however a moderate level of fitness is required. Please bring a shovel if you have one (if you don't that's okay - we will provide a few). If you don't like getting your hands dirty then bringing gardening gloves would be a good idea. Please wear old clothes and be prepared for all types of weather. Also you may wish to bring a drink bottle and some food with you.

Anyone who would like to be involved, but is not available on the chosen dates is still welcome to help next year when we check the equipment for lizards!

If you are interested in helping please email or phone me on 0221286998, and I will send you the details of meeting place.

Kind regards,
Asha Fernandez
EcoGecko Consultants Ltd

022 128 6998
asha@ecogecko.co.nz

Find us online:
[EcoGecko website](#)
[EcoGecko on Facebook](#)
[BioGecko Journal](#)

Right: Rata vines on Pukatea Wainui waterfall track,
Abel Tasman National Park. *Photo: Phil Parnell*





**Otari Open day
2016**

**Saturday 24
September.**

*Photos: WCC &
Dave Burton*



The Waterfalls on Ferguson's Creek

Sunday 23 October was a clear and sunny day, perfect for joining 19 others on this intrepid afternoon walk led by Rodney Lewington. We set off at 2pm crossing the canopy walkway and then dropping down through the wonderful plantings in the cultivated areas and the newly developed lower gardens, to the Troup Picnic area where large groups of people were enjoying the weather. Then it was over the Kaiwharawhara Stream and up into the hills beyond, following first the Blue Trail and then Yellow to the bridge at the Pukatea.

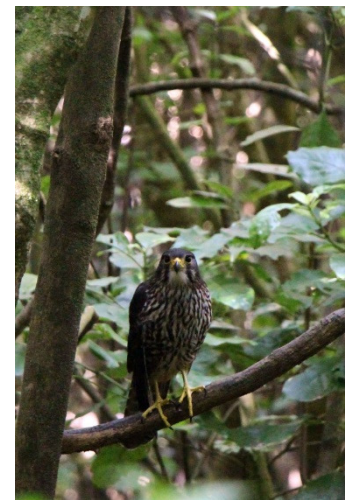


We soon left the track and headed up Ferguson's Creek, past Kingfisher Hilton, another old Pukatea aptly renamed by Louise Wrightson in one of her wonderful poems. Luckily the stream had a low water flow as we were to cross it many times over the next two hours. We finally reached the first and unpassable of three waterfalls before retracing our steps to circumnavigate it by following an old, very overgrown path uphill. The ground is fairly unstable as it is largely greywacke or 'rotten rock' and if you were travelling at the back as I was, you had to watch for falling rocks.

This proved to be the beginning of a very challenging and exciting hour or so. We travelled through fairly uncharted territory, although we did see many of the pest trappers pink markers (if we dared raise our eyes from the ground!). We passed two more waterfalls but spent little time admiring them as concentration was needed for the terrain. It was very beautiful in places, especially with the

afternoon sun glancing through low trees. Despite the challenges of multiple stream crossing, two rope climbs and a considerable amount of Ongaonga to dodge, the mood was very happy and people seemed to enjoy being challenged a lot more than perhaps we are used to in our everyday lives.

After finally ascending the last rope climb up some very dodgy and steep rotten rock, and then using four limbs for the last little bit, we arrived at the 4-wheel drive track not far from the upper entrance to the HH Allan (or upper Red track) which leads



to the Flax Clearing. It was here, just above the Flax Clearing, that we spied a NZ Falcon, the Karearea - an unexpected highlight of this excellent afternoon's activity. We dropped down the Red Trail and again Rodney led us on another 'off piste' track but by this time we were very experienced and just strolled down through the undergrowth to come out at the bridge leading to the Troup Picnic lawn. One last uphill and we arrived only half an hour late at the Information Centre.

A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, thank you Rodney!

Clare Stanford – photos and text

Proposed New Track in Trelissick Park

Trelissick Park is a wonderful neighbourhood asset but the only access from Wadestown and Highland Park is from Hanover Street. The Highland Park Progressive Association, Wadestown Residents' Association and Trelissick Park Group want to determine the level of support from residents and potential users of an extension to the park's track network. The proposal is to build a bridge across the Kaiwharawhara Stream and a new track up to Oban Street. A map of the park can be seen at www.trelissickpark.org.nz and the bridge is up-stream from the detritus trap. (A sketch of the proposed track is being distributed to residents). Comments will be treated as confidential.



Please respond and give us feedback on www.surveymonkey.com/r/TKWY25R. It will only take a couple of minutes.

Many thanks,

Peter

Peter Reimann

Trelissick Park Group

<http://www.trelissickpark.org.nz/>

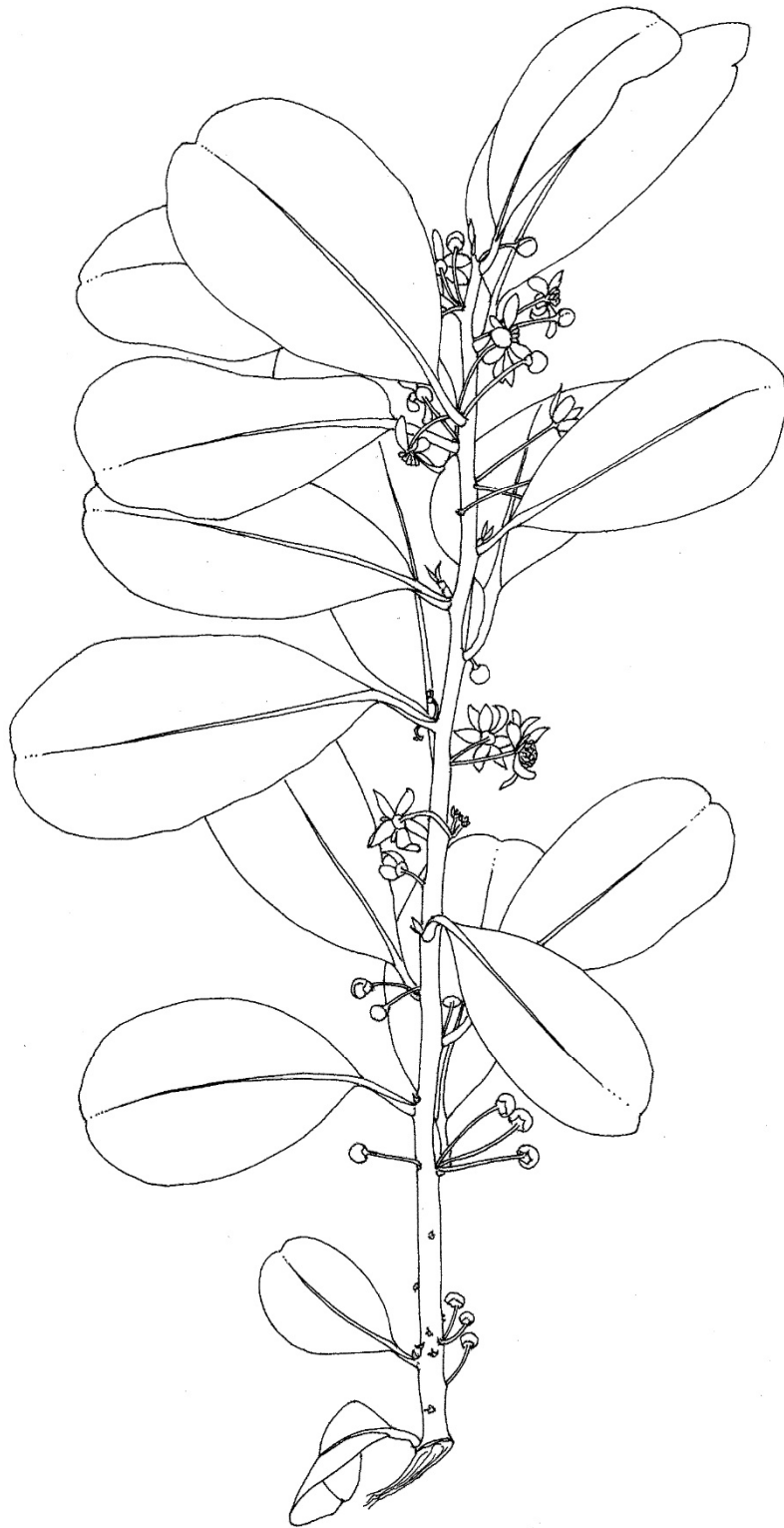
04 938 9602



Open Day saw the new installation of pou (posts) which mark the lower entrance to the fernery.

Wood carvers Archie Kerr and Sam Hillis from the Naenae Menz Shed shaped the pou with designs based on New Zealand's flora and fauna.

Above from left: Rewi Elliott, Archie Kerr, Finn Michalak, Sam Hillis.



***Pseudowintera
insperata***

Pseudowintera insperata is a small tree known from 3 sites in Northland near Whangarei.

Its threat status is Nationally Critical; there are only two viable populations each of about 50 plants, though it is not a very distinctive species; there may be more out there that haven't been found yet.

The leaves are dark green and glossy, with a pale midvein. Otari has only recently acquired this species, and it hasn't made it into the garden yet.

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.