

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views March, 2017

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.
Tuesdays March 7.30pm	Tuesdays in March March seminars , see page 5 for details.
Sunday 26 March 2pm	Propagation workshop. Meet at the Leonard Cockayne Centre <i>Leader: Rewi Elliott</i>
Sunday 23 April 2pm	Dinosaurs lived in an age when ferns, mosses and liverworts dominated the vegetation. <i>Rodney Lewington</i> will introduce you to liverworts and then walk the Blue Trail to see a few of these ancient plants and visit the waterfall commemorating Baron Von Mueller, a 19 th century botanist. About 2 hours on track walk. Bring a hand lens if you have one..
Wednesday 17 May 7.15pm	Annual General meeting. See page 4, page 8 for nomination form.
Sunday 28 May 2pm	Fungal Foray. Meet at the Leonard Cockayne Centre <i>Leader: Geoff Ridley</i>

Chairman's Message



Welcome back after the holiday break and the New Year seems to be moving fast already.

Wellington is finally getting the summer we thought was coming in January with Otari-Wilton's Bush seeing lots of visitors and activities at the gardens.

Most of you will be aware of the temporary management change at Wellington gardens with Rewi acting as Botanic gardens manager and Finn acting in the Curator/Manager role at Otari. Volunteer activities are continuing as usual and preparations for the March seminars now complete.

The monthly walks program is also in full swing for those interested in the wide range of topics covered.

On the cruise ship front our guides have hosted a number of tours and are glad the weather is showing improvement so they can best interpret the many collections on our guided walks. There were some issues at the wharf with earthquakes meaning that the usual terminal is unavailable and limited access is via the Interislander entrance.

Weather and other issues have meant some last minute changes to ship schedules but our experienced team has coped admirably. A brochure has now been developed by the Trust as a thank you and education reminder for cruise ship passengers.

The Trust Board approved two small grants for two WCC horticultural apprentices to assist with attendance at a special course held by Canterbury University each year at Cass in the Arthur's Pass region. This concentrates on developing skills in identifying and collecting native plant samples in the wide range of habitats available there. Both enjoyed the course and have returned with a new enthusiasm for our Native flora. Both had previously worked at Otari as part of their training. These are the first two grants under the auspices of the John Dawson Education fund.

With the recent new Mayor and Councillors being appointed, I (on behalf of the Trust) was invited to a summit held by the Mayor, Justin Lester, to discuss the key issues facing Wellington. The environment was certainly one of these, particularly pest eradication and plant conservation. This was held just after the Kaikoura earthquake and clearly resilience was a major talking point, which, together with housing were seen as top priorities.

Our pest eradication team led by Jim Tait is currently reviewing all our trapping programmes with WCC /GWRC and we look forward to any changes proposed.

There has been almost a festive air at Otari lately with many wedding and picnics being held with some even managing to get the weather right on the day.

Our weekend hosts have been busy with many inquiries and previous residents taking the opportunity to revisit Otari. Many have commented favourably on the changes.

Hope to see you at the March seminars or down at Otari-Wilton's Bush enjoying the last days of summer!

Kind Regards

Phil Parnell

Chair Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.

Otari Report

Greetings,

I hope everyone enjoyed the festive holiday season and was able to find some sun somewhere in the country. It hasn't been the greatest summer, but the forest here at Otari has certainly enjoyed a break from the drought that has hit it hard the last two years. Plants in the collections have thrived, the lawns are lush and green and little irrigation has had to be deployed. Always the optimist...

Weeds have also thrived, but the team here is certainly on top of them and the gardens are looking exceptional right now. Even if I do say so myself.



While I cover the Manager's position here at Otari we have been able to employ a temporary gardener. So here I introduce Megan Ireland. (*Photo left.*) Megan is from the UK and has gained much horticultural experience on the West coast of Scotland. Megan had just finished a one year scholarship working at Tresco (Scilly Isles) before arriving here in January. Tresco is a superb garden off the west coast of Cornwall that has an extensive collection of Mediterranean, Australian and New Zealand plants. Do say hello if you see her in the garden.

We have had visits from three U.S Botanical institutions this year. Angela Weber Hetrick from the USBG Washington D.C. Pam Allenstein , American Public Gardens Association Longwood and Kathleen DeMaria from The University Washington State University. Kathleen gave an interesting talk to the team about

her experience growing 75 New Zealand taxa in the NW U.S.A. Seeing the real thing and far more in its native habitat was thrilling for Kathleen and she will return to the States inspired.

It is always a pleasure introducing overseas visitors to New Zealand flora. It is easy to take for granted how unique and wonderful the plants of this land really are.

The bird life here is also thriving every year. The most notable success is the Karearea (NZ Falcon) that is breeding at Otari and currently raising two juveniles. In New Zealand there are about 2000 in total, so being able to watch them grace the skies of Otari is a constant pleasure. You will often spot them morning and afternoon flying through the lower collections and landing on the magnificent Ngaio tree beside the Cockayne lawn.

Many thanks for everyone's involvement at Otari, it certainly remains a very special place to visit.

Cheers,

Finn Michalak

Collection Curator,

Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve



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

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.

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

The Trust Annual General Meeting

This important meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 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 .

See nomination form page 8.

For more information contact Phil Parnell or Margaret Crimp.

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.



March Seminars 2017

Where: Otari-Wilton's Bush Information Centre

Time: 7.30pm. Gold coin donation

Tuesday March 7 Phil Lester New Zealand's native (and not very social) bees & some new arrivals

Abstract: Prior to Mary Bumby bring honey bees to New Zealand in 1939, there were no social bees of any type living in the country. But we still had and have native bees. There are about 20,000 bee species around the globe. Of these, New Zealand is the native home to around 28 species. Our native species are all solitary and are primarily made up of "sweat bees" and "plasterer bees". Despite being solitary they can play an important role in the pollination of our native plants. I'll introduce these bees and talk about some new exotic arrivals that include the alkali bee and wool-carder bee.

Tuesday March 14 Dallas Mildenhall "An international investigation into the falsified antimalarial drug trade"

Tuesday March 21 Karin Van der Walt "The role of Botanic Gardens in plant conservation."

Tuesday March 28 Karin Mahfeld. The new illustrated guide to land snails of the Wellington Region, NatureWatch and threatened species.

RAMBO in 2016

In 2016 RAMBO took on an additional trap line when volunteers took over the Regional Council traps in Johnston Hill Reserve. The KATCH 22 group took over the traps within this reserve and have connected it with their trap lines that run from Makara Peak along the Sky Line so they now connect with the RAMBO Sky Line trap lines. RAMBO took over the traps that are around the boundary of the Johnston Hill Reserve and the Karori Cemetery as well as traps within the cemetery. These connect with our southern trap line. To look after this new line we welcome Dennis Hardie to our team.



The RAMBO trapping program is intended to supplement the poison bait station program of the Regional Council and is principally aimed at mustelids and hedgehogs for which of course the bait stations are out of reach. The bait station program is aimed at possums but the bait is also very attractive to rats – especially ship rats which have no problems climbing trees.

For RAMBO rats are a very good by-catch and an incentive to keep going as our mustelid (stoats and weasels) and hedgehog catch is normally quite low.

In 2016 our actual results were 68 rats, 3 stoats, 2 weasels and 21 hedgehogs. This is a small drop in the numbers of rats caught last year, similar numbers of mustelids and a huge increase in the hedgehog catch. The mustelids were all caught on or near the Sky Line as were the hedgehogs while the rats were mostly caught either along the Kaiwharawhara Stream or on the ridges from the stream to the skyline. The hedgehog catch does seem to be an anomaly as this is three times what we normally catch, all were caught in the first half of the year and virtually all in a relatively small area.

Because the primary target for RAMBO is mustelids our traps are on quite a wide spacing. With Otari-Wilton's Bush being one of the regions Key Native Ecosystems and especially with the announcement that 80 rifleman or titiponamu will be released in Otari-Wilton's Bush in 2018 following a similar release in Zealandia this year I will be shortly talking with the Wellington City Council on how we can more proactively target the rats.

This will involve the smaller snap rat traps on a closer spacing than our DOC200 traps. The question is how many traps, where will they go and how will they be serviced.

Finally a comment on the backyard trapping initiatives as part of the predator free program. This began in Crofton Downs and round here there are now programs in Wilton, Wadestown, Ngaio and Khandallah and one is being set up in Northland. The Wilton program is of particular relevance as this suburb borders Otari-Wilton's Bush. This program called Otari Predator Free and from its setup in June last year to mid Feb it now has around 190 households participating and it has caught 387 rats.

Jim Tait

Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii

Early January saw the third instalment of what has been a very exciting season working with *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii* within the Wainuiomata Water Catchment with greater Wellington Regional Council. We now know of four populations within the Water Catchment. The largest population being about 15 individuals. Previously we knew of only two plants.



Brachyglottis kirkii var. *kirkii* at Wainuiomata is being heavily browsed by deer and goats, and rarely fruits. However we were there today to collect ripe seed from **two** individuals. One of these was fenced off in 2013 by team Otari and GWRC staff. The other plant is perched on a steep road cutting, therefore safe guarded from ungulate browse.

The seed will now be handed to Conor Neilson who will investigate the best propagation protocols.

Last December, four other plants from the two new populations found by team Otari were fenced off. Fingers crossed these plants will flower and fruit next season and provide us with more valuable seed for the recovery of *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii* in the Wellington region.

Finn Michalak



*Nasir Mulligan renovating the rock garden pond.
Above: Margaret Crimp, left: Phil Parnell*

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

160 Wilton Road,
WELLINGTON 6012

NOMINATION FORM FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

(To be completed by the nominator)

I (please print full name) _____

being a financial member of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, wish to nominate as a
Trustee:

Name of person being nominated: _____

Nominee's address:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DECLARATION

(to be completed by the person being nominated)

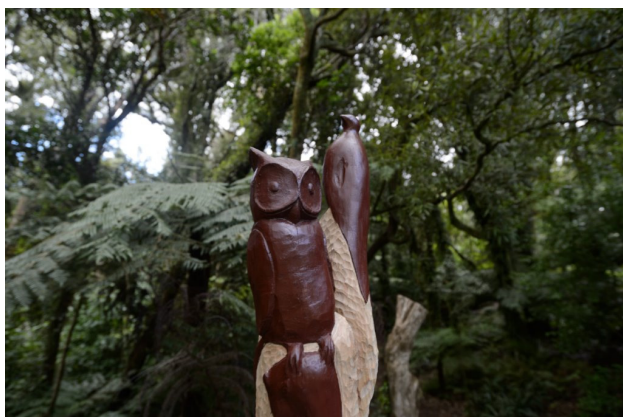
I (please print full name) _____ being a
financial member of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, agree to being nominated as a
Trustee.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Photos taken around Otari

by Phil Parnell.

From top of page: NZ Falcon.
Detail from Pou, Ros Batchelor
potting up plants
Corokia cotoneaster, Volunteers
weeding.
Alpine Garden Tarn, Kauri
Lawn.





Helichrysum filicaule

Helichrysum filicaule is a creeping herb of open places, lowland to subalpine, found throughout the country south of 38 degrees latitude. It is a member of the Asteraceae (daisy family). In cultivation it likes sunny well drained places, and seems to prefer running around in other groundcovers. The flowers are white button daisies, seeds are wind dispersed.

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.