

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views June, 2017

Web site: www.owbt.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 25 June 2pm Silverstream Road, Crofton Downs	This is a visit to Huntleigh Park to see a podocarp/broadleaved forest which is one of the best preserved of Wellington's remaining pre-European bush. See large podocarps, numerous liane and fern species. This forest is now a breeding area for our native bush parrot, the kaka. The track is not long but it starts with a climb. It can be a bit slippery after rain so good footwear is advised. Meet Where: On the green open space in Silverstream Road, Crofton Downs by the Ngaio Playcentre. When: 2 pm, (Return before 4 pm.) Cost: Free to Otari Wilton's Bush Trust members, otherwise \$5.00 pp. <i>Leader: Chris Moore</i>
Sunday 23 July 2pm	Conservation Walk. Learn about some of New Zealand's endangered plants and have a look behind the scenes at plant conservation work carried out at Otari-Wilton's Bush staff. An easy 1hour - 1hour 30 minute walk. Bookings are required. Phone the Treehouse Visitor Centre on 04 499 1400 to book your spot. <i>Leaders: Rewi Elliot and Karin van der Walt</i>
Fridays 30 June 14 & 28 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 – search 'Eventfinda' for 'glow worm'. <i>Leader: Dave Burton</i>
Sunday 27 August 2pm	Speciation. This 90-minute guided walk will introduce you to the evolutionary processes leading to speciation in plants, e.g., natural selection, convergent and divergent evolution. It will be particularly relevant to Year 13 students, and science and biology teachers. Free for Year 12 and 13 students. Meet at Information Centre, Te Marae of Tane. <i>Leader Bev Abbott.</i>
Saturday 23 September	Open Day

Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust Board Report

2016-2017



This is the 17th annual report of the Trust and it has been a full year of activities for Otari-Wilton's Bush marked by the achievement of becoming a Garden of International Significance and six stars by the NZ Garden Trust. The staff are to be congratulated on their efforts.

The Trust has also continued to put a number of building blocks in place to assist in promoting and improving the overall experience at Otari-Wilton's Bush.

The Board activities have included:

- 1) Represented members' interests in the Annual Plan process to ensure Otari-Wilton's Bush capital funding was confirmed.
- 2) Making submissions to Council on matters impacting Otari-Wilton's Bush.
- 3) Widening trapping availability to Wilton residents and funding of some new pest eradication equipment.
- 4) Providing volunteers, refreshments and BBQ for the Open Day.
- 5) Compiling and producing the 2017 Otari calendar funded by the Trust.
- 6) Arranging provision of hosts at weekends at the Information Centre.
- 7) A range of volunteer services during each week to assist with garden maintenance.
- 8) Supervision of the revegetation maintenance and planting on a monthly basis.
- 9) Planning volunteer guide operations for tourists to Otari-Wilton's Bush.
- 10) Making a submission to DOC on their Conservation Management Strategy.
- 11) Delivering the very successful series of seminars on Tuesday evenings in March.
- 12) Production of a pamphlet aimed at cruise ship passengers to remember plant stories.
- 13) Development of a comprehensive new web site www.owbt.nz which went live late March.
- 14) Contribution to the funding for a plant acquisition trip to Nelson/Kahurangi area to add to and improve plant collections and seed for National seed bank in Palmerston North.

Planning

The Board has been discussing projects within Otari and reviewing detailed plans for the rimu platform which now looks likely to happen in next Council financial year.

Project Rambo (Rats and Mustelid Blitzing at Otari)

This project has now been going for a number of years and the experience is making it more successful. Jim Tait is producing regular reports and liaising with GWRC and other nearby groups.

John Dawson Education Fund

The Board decided that following John Dawson receiving the Allan Mere award that a fund would be set up within the Trust to recognise his contribution to education in NZ Native Plants.



Hosting

The Trust has recruited and trained a number of hosts this year. We are only just keeping up with demands and a number have left or moved from the area. Another cupboard has been added to the Information Centre for our use.

Guiding

We are getting more requests from NZ based groups and conferences which is good promotion for Otari-Wilton's Bush. We will promote this with the web site and new bookmarks.

Our special thanks go to Rodney Lewington and Bev Abbott who are leading this keen band of volunteers. Feedback has been great and improvements are always being made. The monthly walks programme was well attended.

Seminars

This year's March seminars were very well attended. Our special thanks to Phil Lester, Karin Van der Walt, Dallas Mildenhall, Karin Mahlfeld for their participation.

Membership

Membership fell last year in both double and single categories. There are a number of subscriptions outstanding for last year and these people have been issued with reminders. A special welcome to all new members this year.

Finances

A summarised financial results report shows an excess of income over expenditure with some expected expenditure not made due to delays with planning. Expenses were as expected with a further category Publicity being added to cater for website and other promotional expenses incurred. NZPCN only occurs every two years so is on again late 2017. Overall though a very satisfactory result with great help from many volunteers.

Newsletter

Vera Burton continues to do a valuable job on our newsletter and we hope you enjoy the regular information about Otari-Wilton's Bush. There is also a database to newsletters available from our website.

Conclusion

In presenting this report on behalf of the Trust Board I would like to acknowledge and thank fellow trustees, the Otari-Wilton's Bush staff, WCC managers, Trust volunteers and members for their support during this year in all activities of the Trust.

We can look forward to another excellent year for Otari-Wilton's Bush, the newest Garden of International Significance.

Phil Parnell
Chair

Otari Report



Greetings,

A lot has been going on in the gardens. Apart from the ongoing maintenance of Otari, we have had rather unfortunate news. I am talking about myrtle rust which I am sure you will all know has arrived on mainland New Zealand. The total number of affected properties now stands at 17 in 3 regions - Northland, Taranaki and Waikato. This number will surely rise in the coming weeks.

Otari has 25 of the 28 native Myrtaceae species endemic to New Zealand in the collections. 5 species occur naturally in the Otari forest. We know that they are all at risk of infection. Although we don't know what this means to the plants yet, we must plan for the worst and hope for the best. Nationally there has been a big push to collect Myrtaceae seed for the NZISB (New Zealand Indigenous Seed Bank) as an insurance, and the team have been out in the forest to look for suitable collections to bank. We have only managed *Metrosideros fulgens* so far, but we are watching *Metrosideros perforata* and *Metrosideros diffusa* ripen at the moment. *Lophomyrtus bullata* has no fruit and we are too late for *Metrosideros robusta*. We'll keep you posted on this story as it unfolds...

Hopefully you will have noticed some of the garden developments the team have been working on. There has been good progress on the Climbers and Epiphytes garden in the lower collections. The plants will establish in time and demonstrate the various ways in which plants climb in search of light. If you have arrived via the North picnic entrance you will have noticed the harakeke plantings. These plants are duplicates from the Te Papa Orchitson collection. They are recognised for their significant and different weaving qualities, and we hope they will be a well utilised resource once they have fully established. They look beautiful there also.

Revege season is also upon us, and Otari every year is responsible for the emergent tree plantings. This year we will be planting a total of 1000 emergent tree plants (tawa, nikau, rimu, matai, miro, titoki, hinau) into areas that were revegetated by the council 5 to 10 years ago. It is also time to start providing more plants for Wilbur and the Plant Care team for planting at the old tip face. This area has changed so much over the years and will soon simply blend into the Otari forest.

Many thanks,

Finn Michalak

Collections Curator

Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve

Glow Worm Walks at Otari

Walks on Fridays 30 June, 14 & 28 July 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 – search 'Eventfinda' for 'glow worm'.

Cost: \$6, children under 12 free.

Leader: Dave Burton

Trust Board 2016 - 2017

At the AGM the current Trust Board was elected unopposed



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

Montbretia Busting along Kaiwharawhara Stream

I thought you and other Trust members might be interested in hearing about an event here at Otari on Friday April 28th. As part of the commemorations of Anzac Day a group of 15 great folk from Scouts New Zealand head office spent a morning of Team Building with an environmental theme volunteering here at Otari.

So down to the stream we went and started pulling out the montbretia (*Crocasmia*), that orange flowered Iris from South Africa that adorns lots of the banks along the stream. Within a couple of hours we had a huge trailer load and a couple of garden rubbish bags to throw on top! Well over one cubic meter :)

After that we moved on to planting a few plants each, as well as the usual streamside species (pate, marble leaf etc.) we got several *Syzygium maire* (swamp maire) planted. This tree is not currently in Otari but we sourced some from Zealandia.

All in all a very enjoyable and successful morning was had; Finn and I even earned a scout badge each.

David Bidgood

Otari Awards

The recipients were:

Richard Grasse: Richard has been a volunteer at Otari for some years in various categories. He has been a particularly valuable member of the monthly Saturday revegetation team and if work during the planting season has been postponed by rain on the first Saturday of the month, Richard has always been the first to volunteer to come back on the next fine day to finish planting. He has also been one of the stalwart trappers in the Rambo group and as a keen botanist is interested in widening his experience by helping with guiding activities. He is a worthy recipient of an Otari Award.



Jim Tait: Jim has been a valuable member of the Rambo Group for a number of years and for more than three years he has been leading the group. He has also been assisting and advising the Board on ways of upgrading the website or establishing a new web site. His commitment to Otari makes him a worthy recipient of an award.

Lynley Trower: Lynley is one of the longest serving members of the monthly Saturday revegetation group and her attendance is virtually guaranteed if she is not incapacitated or out of Wellington. While not a grubber-wielding weed buster she has a keen eye for the smaller nefarious weeds and is zealous in dealing to *Tradescantia*, *Montbretia* and the other garden escapes which are invading the outer reaches of the Kaiwharawhara Valley. She is also very good in introducing and looking after new younger members to the weeding and planting team.

Lynley was absent so Wilbur Dovey accepted the award on her behalf.

Institute for Study Abroad (IFSA)

Students from all over America are studying in NZ through the Institute for Study Abroad (IFSA) for one semester. IFSA allows the students to experience more culture and natural landscape, organising trips and activities throughout. On Sunday the 14th Otari welcomed the group of 15 students and co-ordinator Hannah Hutton to the garden and remnant forest. They helped the continuing clearance of ***Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*** from the Kaiwharawhara stream and were excited to plant kamahi and rimu on the upper blue trail ridge. Many had not planted a tree before and found the comparison between the young rimu sapling and the 800yr old staggering. Hopefully a new group will return next semester.

Megan Ireland



Apprentices at Cass Course.

On January 27th 2017 Sian Marsh and I attended Practical Field Botany, an intensive 8 day course run annually by the University of Canterbury, along with 25 other participants and 3 lecturers.

Based at the UC Cass Mountain Research area we took some amazing day trips including one to Red Hill near Lake Lyndon where we hiked up to the alpine scree slopes to see beautiful scree plants like *Ranunculus haastii*. We also looked at plants in riverbeds, bogs, alpine grassland and scrub lands.

During our time there we learned 80 plant species common to and or interesting in the area.

We completed 3 assignments, collecting and preparing herbarium specimens, a photography assignment, and a ready reference collection book.

Between day trips and working on our assignments we used plant keys to key out plant species we had found and had various lectures and discussions.

A mid term exam was held on the 4th day and our Final exam on the last day.

The course description 'intensive' was correct! I had an amazing time and loved getting into the field and learning so much!



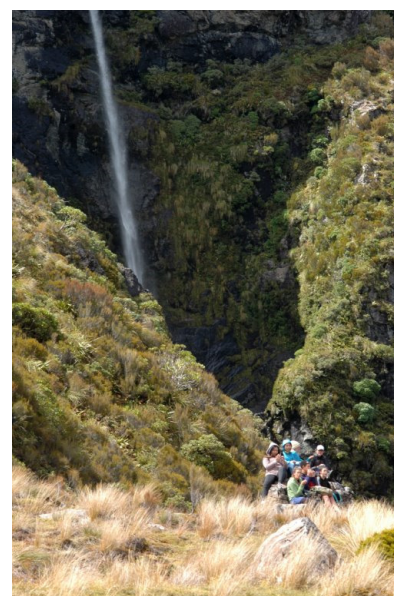
A big thank you to the Otari Wilton Bush Trust, and WCC for your support, I highly recommend this course.

Tara Heeran Harris, Horticultural Apprentice, WCC.

Left: Sian Marsh Hiking up to the scree, Red Hill near Lake Lyndon

Right above: Sian and Tara at Kettle Bog

Right below: Lunch at Temple Basin Tara Heeran-Harris



New Apprentice at Otari

My name is Peter Bellam. I am the new apprentice at Otari. I started with Wellington City Council in April 2016. My passion is restoring native plant cover by revegetation planting. I have done this with Wellington City Council and community groups in my own time. I have helped with S.E.A. at Tawatawa Reserve in south Wellington. I have also helped at Manawa Karioi at the marae land in Island Bay.



Collecting in Kahurangi

Myself and Rewi made the most of the last good weather and headed to Kahurangi National Park, NW Nelson at the end of March. The aim was to collect plant material for Otari that is currently absent or less represented in our collections. We were also reconnoitring for the NZISB (New Zealand Indigenous Seed Bank). We were not confident that this was a good fruiting year due to the unseasonal summer weather. However, we took along all the materials required for collecting seed and were prepared if the opportunity arose.



Above: Mt Arthur and Flora Track
Below: The Tablelands Kahurangi



All target areas were on DOC land. Kahurangi has more than half of New Zealand's native plant species and over 80% of all alpine species. Its flora is the most diverse of any national park and includes 67 plant species found nowhere else.

The National Park is vast. Although there are various accessible walks, the majority of the numerous

high alpine areas take days of tramping to access. Our first journey was to Salisbury Lodge and the Tablelands via the Flora loop track. The moor-like Tableland is dominated by red tussock that shelter buttercups, gentians, daisies and various herbs. We returned to flora car park via Gordons Pyramid and the lower slopes of Mt Arthur. This is where you will find much alpine plant diversity. *Epilobium* spp., *Raoulia* spp. (the Vegetable Sheep) *Aciphylla* spp. and *Lecogenes grandiceps* (the South Island Edelweiss) and much more. The next 2 days were spent in the Wangapeka Valley. Most

of the Wangapeka Route winds through forest of red and silver beech forest. This valley is home to *Olearia polita*, a nationally endangered daisy.

My aim was to get up onto the tops of Luna Flats. I wasn't prepared for how arduous the walk would become and Mt Patriach and Mt. Luna were viewed only from a distance, next time... The Valley Track itself was beautiful and various plants were collected. We also managed one accession for the NZISB. *Rubus parvus*. The plant grew abundantly near to Stone Hut, where we also spotted the rare duck Whio in its natural fast flowing habitat.

Our final day was spent at Titoki nursery in Nelson. A fantastic and beautifully kept nursery that eco sources regional plants for restoration and amenity plantings. Titoki nursery has won an NZPCN award for its contribution to conservation. A good selection of their plants is being freighted here imminently. These will complement the 55 newly accessioned species that team Otari managed to collect from Kahurangi National park.

Finn Michalak



Above: *Rubus parvus*. Wangapeka Valley
Below: *Lecogenes grandiceps*



Otari Help Save Endangered Plant



A 'Dominion Post' report of 15 May, 2017 (page A10), by Will Harvie, highlights the work being done at Otari by Dr Debra Wotton, to save the critically endangered 'dry plains shrub daisy' (*Olearia adenocarpa*), which is failing to regenerate in the wild. The daisy, with fewer than 700 adult plants left, is ranked among the 50 most threatened New Zealand plants.

Harvie said that Wotton, working from Wellington's Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Trust Reserve, has germinated the daisy and that Otari staff have raised 70 sub - adult plants over the past 18 months. At the same time Wotton was conducting field trials to determine how best to return the daisy to the wild in Canterbury. The daisy only occurs naturally in the Waimakariri and Rakaia river plains in Canterbury where it occupies stony, sandy areas in former river channels. It was likely to have colonised these sites after floods deposited fresh sediments. But flood protection works have reduced flooding and stopped the creation of the daisy's preferred habitat. Historical burning and grazing by stock has led to native shrub lands being replaced with non- native grasslands. The daisy cannot compete with non - native grasses.

So virtually all of the ecosystem needed by the daisy is missing. Efforts to preserve the daisy in the wild have included fencing - especially to stop browsing by hares and rabbits, and spraying herbicides on non- native grasses. But these programmes are expensive, intensive and cover relatively small areas. Habitat restoration is required, a much more ambitious project. Working with Environment Canterbury and Canterbury University, Wotton is conducting field trials testing whether shade and shelter, including from other native shrubs, but also constructed wooden shelters with shade cloth, can help the daisy survive in the wild. They are also testing 'natural disturbance' by adding gravels to growing sites. The plants going to Canterbury will be planted later this year, by Department of Corrections crews, with 6 plants being kept by Otari for its own collection, and as insurance if the trials fail in Canterbury.

Dr Debra Wotton gained her PhD in Ecology from the University of Canterbury, worked as a scientist at the Department of Conservation and Landcare Research. In 2013 she founded Moa's Ark Research, a consultancy firm providing ecological services on native biodiversity. She is also a research associate at the University of Canterbury and works from Otari. Her daisy research is funded by science grants, plus assistance from Otari, E Can, city council, Canterbury University and huge amounts of her own volunteered time.

The draft 'Threatened Species Strategy', released earlier in May, proposes to 'manage 500 New Zealand species for protection by 2015...and 600 species for protection by 2030'. Harvie further comments that the draft strategy identifies 150 species for enhanced protection 'ensuring that the long-term health of 150 threatened and at- risk species will be improved'. The top 50 of these are said to be 'notable to New Zealanders and currently receiving management'. He further makes the point that it is not clear what 'enhanced protection' means for the daisy or Wotton's research.

He concludes by saying that the daisy research programme illustrates - depending on one's point of view - how many organisations and individuals are already working together to preserve rare plants and shows exactly where the draft strategy can help. Alternatively though it shows too how patchwork current efforts are. For example, he notes that Otari is funded by the Wellington City Council but assists with rare plants and trees from around New Zealand, including Northland, Whanganui, Otago and Canterbury.

Ian Stockwell

This photo was found in a booklet about Eric Godley, Botanist, which was donated to the Otari-Wilton's Bush library by Mary McEwen.

The description says it all: **"Distinguished Botanists"**



OTARI
WILTON'S BUSH TRUST



Photo: A. Bathgate

Distinguished botanists of an earlier era, summit of Arthur's Pass, 30 January 1928. L to R: W.R.B. Oliver, R.M. Laing, E. Phillips Turner, A.W. Hill, L. Cockayne, A.H. Cockayne.



***Rhabdothamnus solandri*, taurepo**

Rhabdothamnus solandri is a shrub found throughout the North Island, although the distribution becomes more local south of Whanganui; it is also found in the the Three Kings Islands which is where the plant illustrated is from. It is a plant of lowland and coastal forest, particularly streamsidess. It has flowers ranging in colour from pale yellow to deep orange, usually scented, and will flower for a considerable part of the year. It is an attractive shrub but can be temperamental in cultivation; it needs a shady sheltered spot with good soil and no frost. At Otari it can be seen in the 38 degrees garden.

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.