

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views September, 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.
Thursday 14 September 9am	Thursday 14 September 9.00am We are again joining in the annual Cleanup of NZ. We are going to clean up the boundaries and tracks of Otari. This project will leave Otari looking pristine for Open Day. Meet on the deck at the Information Centre at 9.00am for a brief health and safety talk. Bags and gloves will be provided. We look forward to seeing a number of enthusiastic volunteers
Saturday 23 September	Open Day For details of programme & how you can help see pages 4/5
Sunday 22 October 2pm	Piggybacking Plants: This "walk and talk" will look at a number of different plants and how they "piggyback" on other plants in order to get their share of sunlight. The walk will pretty much follow the Nature Trail. This means it will be relatively easy but a number of steps will need to be negotiated. Good footwear is recommended. Meet at the Otari Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre. 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 26 November 2pm	Sunday 26 November 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. An easy 1hour - 1hour 30 minute walk. Bookings are required. Phone the Treehouse Visitor Centre on 04 499 1400 to book your spot. Meet at the Leonard Cockayne Centre at 2pm. Cost: \$5 (free to Trust Members) <i>Leader: Rewi Elliot</i>

Chairman's Message



A wetter winter than normal for 2017 at Otari but all the plants and trees are looking great.

Signs of spring are already in evidence; kakabeak, kowhai and clematis already in flower with lots more to come no doubt. Rewi is back and so is Dave and another new apprentice to help out with running the operations.

The team continue to do great work on the forest and botanic garden which the Trust members really appreciate and enjoy.

The Board has recently put a submission to DOC on its threatened species strategy, and my thanks go to Bev Abbott for leading this work which included a meeting held in the Leonard Cockayne Centre of many Wellington conservation groups with DOC to get further explanation of its intentions on threatened plants.

Our walks programme is running as usual each month including a side excursion to Huntleigh Park, a great piece of native bush in Crofton Downs. David Burton has also had good attendances for the glow worm walks as usual.

We are now looking forward to Open Day with some exciting new additions on Saturday September 23rd (get your voting done early!) then come and join us for a BBQ, coffee and cakes, and, of course, the plant sale. Any members wishing to help please contact Jocelyn Hoskin.

We will also have a couple of raffles. One of these is for a 'hot off the press' board game called "The Flight of the Pollen" for which the Board has provided assistance with funding. Fun for kids and adults alike with a serious educational message on native plant reproduction.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible on the day.

The tourist season is almost upon us and we have around twenty-eight tours booked already so please assist our guides when they are running these tours to ensure these guests go away with a good impression of this special place.

Thanks to all volunteers who actively help out in numerous ways to make Otari-Wilton's Bush one of Wellington's most valued facilities.

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

Otari calendar: For those who send away calendars please note that this year there will not be an Otari calendar

Otari Report

Kia ora koutou,

It's nice to be back at Otari after my secondment at the Botanic Garden for the first six months of this year. I had a great time at the Botanic Garden; thoroughly enjoyed working from David Sole's desk and with the team there, but it's also exciting to come back to Otari to catch up on projects I had to drop during my time away.



One of these projects is the protection of the 800 year old rimu on the blue trail. We are revisiting the rimu with the staff here and architect next week to look at alternative boardwalk designs to keep people off the tree's roots. This tree is an important icon for the city so we want to make sure we get it right when settling on how this protection work should be done.

Also in the forest we have recently planted 50 kohurangi (*Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*), a plant we suspect hasn't been found in Otari for around 100 years now. After our recent translocation of kohurangi into Zealandia also, we have had the fortune to have Isabelle Wolsey join us from Victoria University. Isabelle will be keeping tabs on the performance of the planting for us. Fingers crossed for success.

In the gardens we have begun a review of the plant collections we display. The review is a good opportunity to take stock of what collections and themes we have in the gardens and to ask users of Otari if we are meeting their needs. Our last review was in 2008 which led to a landscape plan developed by Wraight & Associates Ltd. Many of the changes to the path network through the gardens since, and the work on the Leonard Cockaye Centre, stemmed from this review. We intend to make a draft document available sometime before the end of the year.

Open day is coming up on Saturday 23 September. We have the usual plant sale, refreshments at the Information Centre, guided walks from our knowledgeable guides and a chance to make the unseen seen with a pop up lab in the Information Centre (great for kids).

We look forward to having you visit Otari over the spring, please stop and say hello to the staff you see, we are more than happy to answer any questions you have.

Kind regards,

Rewi Elliot, Team Manager, Otari-Wilton's Bush
rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz

Otari Apprentice



Kia ora – My name is Tom Mayo and I'm the apprentice at Otari for the period August – November. Wellington is my home city and I grew up in the suburb of Northland close to Otari. I volunteered at Otari after finishing a degree in Landscape Architecture at Victoria University and two years abroad in Bristol, U.K. I have a passion for native plants and conservation. Today I am just over a year into my apprenticeship and it is great to return to Otari which has always been a very special place for me, even more so since volunteering here helped me secure my job. The amount of study that I have achieved here in the past two weeks has shown how shallow my current depth of knowledge is regarding horticulture and botany. I look forward to spending more time at Otari learning.

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

HELP!

Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day, Saturday 23 September

We need your help in different ways:

_We need help to man the refreshment table and the barbecue.

_We also ask you to help by providing cakes, muffins, loaves, biscuits etc to sell

The Cake stall/ refreshment stand and barbecue are our great fundraisers but they can only be successful with your help. Contributions can be left in the meeting room of the Information Centre on Friday afternoon, 22 September, or delivered to the cake stall on Saturday morning

For any questions or to volunteer please contact:

Jocelyn Hoskin, 475 8696, jocelynhoskin@clear.net.nz



Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day

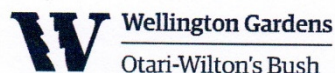
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



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- 10am** **Native plants for sale on the Cockayne Lawn**
- 11am–2pm** **Open Lab**
Get a chance to work with real-life lab equipment in the Open Lab. Investigate what creatures are out there on a microscopic level.
Location: Information Centre
- 11.30am** **Free guided walk through Otari-Wilton's Bush**
Join our Otari guides to hear stories about New Zealand native plants. Meet at the Information Centre. **1 hour**
- 1.00pm** **Free guided walk through Otari-Wilton's Bush**
Join our Otari guides to hear stories about New Zealand native plants. Meet at the Information Centre. **1 hour**

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**There will be stalls and displays from community groups.
Refreshments available all day.**
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Native Botanic Garden and Forest Reserve, 160 Wilton Road,
Wilton Number 14 bus from Wellington City
For more information, phone 04 499 4444 or go to wellington.govt.nz/otari



RAMBO Update

The Greater Wellington Regional Council has published its “Small Mammal Monitoring Report for Key Native Ecosystems” which looks at the results of the monitoring done in February 2017.

For Otari-Wilton’s Bush the report states that “Rat tracking has dropped in the last monitor with rats only being recorded in one of the 58 tunnels examined. The mice tracking rate also declined back to the 10 percent level it has fluctuated around since 2013. No cats were encountered in this monitor, but hedgehogs were tracked on two tunnels.”

No mustelids were detected.

This is an excellent result as it is generally considered that if the rat tracking rate (i.e. the percentage of monitoring tunnels that shows rat sign) gets down to 5% then the chances of birds breeding successfully goes up.

The 2017 results for rats mean that 2% of the tunnels showed rat sign. This compares with 5% in 2016 and 2% in 2015.

The successful predator control in Otari-Wilton’s Bush is due to three separate control activities:

1. The Greater Wellington Regional Council bait station program for possums, but which also gets rats;
2. RAMBO
3. Control along the boundaries of Otari-Wilton’s Bush to restrict re-invasion.

The Regional Council has 82 pelifeed stations using brodifacoum poison bait. The network is serviced four times a year at intervals of three months by Regional Council Biosecurity staff.

RAMBO now has 71 DOC200 traps both within Otari-Wilton’s Bush and outside along the boundaries. In 2016 some 68 rats were caught, along with 5 mustelids and 21 hedgehogs. So far in 2017 we have caught 64 rats, 4 mustelids and 18 hedgehogs. The mustelids and hedgehogs were virtually all caught on the boundaries of Otari-Wilton’s Bush.

The low Regional Council detection rate for rats can be explained by the fact that their monitoring tunnels were only out for one night – so with a low rat population density the rat may not get round all its territory in one night so would not come across the monitoring tunnel.

While RAMBO and neighbouring groups have traps covering the reserves and farmland bordering Otari-Wilton’s Bush there remained the possibility of re-invasion from the suburbs. In the last year backyard trapping groups have been set up all over Wellington – there are now 26 such groups covering virtually every suburb. Otari Predator Free has been going for just over a year and in that time has caught over 800 rats and almost 500 mice.

In the last year the backyard groups in Northland, Wilton, Wadestown, Ngaio and Khandallah have caught over 2,700 rats.

Finally free rat traps are still available should anyone want one. If people contact me on otaripredatorfree@gmail.com I can put them in touch with their local group.

Jim Tait

22 August 2017



Fungal Foray

On Sunday the 28th May more than 30 people joined Geoff Ridley for the annual Fungal Foray at Otari-Wilton's Bush. This was held a month later than usual and because of the wet summer the fungal season had started early, with fungi apparent throughout the summer months.

As always there was plenty to see and lots to learn. A big thank you to Geoff for once again making a complex subject both accessible and entertaining.

Geoff's own report of the foray can be read on his blog *Spores Moulds and Fungi*

Report and photos: Jane Humble

<https://sporesmouldsandfungi.wordpress.com/2017/05/28/otari-wiltons-bush-annual-foray-28-may-2017/>



'Geoff Ridley talking to the group'.

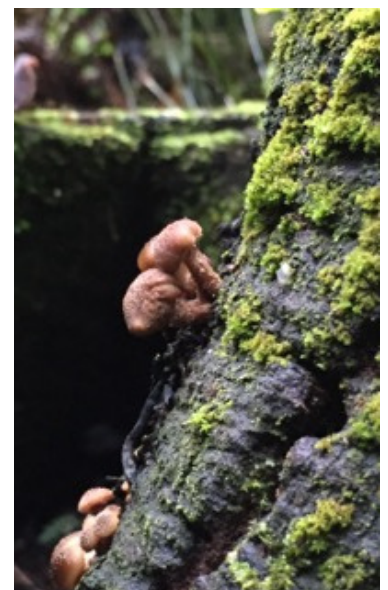


Above: Psathyrella sp

Left: Lycoperdon parratin

Below centre: ? Armillaris novae-zelandiae

Below: Unidentified



From the archives



OTARI
WILTON'S BUSH TRUST



The Dominion
September 8,
1951.

“Part of the Otari native plant museum at Wilton Road, Wellington. The rock garden will be the biggest in New Zealand and extensive development is being carried out here by the Parks and Reserves Department.”

Hukutaia Domain Opotiki. The Millennium Tree 2000 year old Puriri



Seen recently
on a road trip through
Eastland NZ,
and photographed by
Phil Parnell



Metrosideros bartlettii

Bartlett's rata

This species was first discovered in 1975 by an amateur botanist, John Bartlett. It was not seen flowering until 1984. It is a large tree, up to 25m, with small white flowers; only 27 specimens are known in the wild, from 3 bush remnants near Te Paki (North Cape). They can be initially epiphytic, or terrestrial. This plant can be seen at Otari near the bottom of the generic borders where the track goes down to the Troup picnic area. Recently buds were seen on it, which on closer investigation proved to be flower buds (detailed drawings).

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.