

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views June, 2019

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 & children under 15, otherwise \$5. Web site: www.owbt.nz

The second Saturday of each month. 9am	Plant care is on the second Saturday of each month. Please note there is no plant care in January; resumes in February Contact Wilbur Dovey, 499 1044.
Friday 5 July 7pm	Glow worm walk for Trust members and their families only. You'll need good shoes, warm clothing, and a torch. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Information Centre. No charge. <i>Leader: Dave Burton</i>
Fridays 14 June, 28 June 12 July, 26 July 7pm	Glow worm walk. See p 5 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 23 June 2pm	Animal Pests & Predators in Otari Learn about animal pests and predators found in Otari and how they are being controlled. We will walk up the Red Trail following one of the trap lines to see traps and monitoring devices in action. Not all traps are on the trail so we will be climbing some steep terrain. Good walking shoes or boots are essential and you will need to be reasonably fit for this 1 – 1.5 hour walk. <i>Leader: Jim Tait</i>
Sunday 28 July 2pm	“Evolutionary Processes Leading to Speciation” This 90-minute walk will introduce some of the evolutionary processes leading to speciation in plants. e.g., convergent and divergent evolution. It will be particularly relevant to Year 13 biology students and teachers. Meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane <i>Leader: Bev Abbott</i>
Sunday 25 August 2pm	“A Heritage Walk in Otari” A two hour walk along the Kaiwharawhara trail to the cemetery and back along lower Blue trail. We will include stories of Leonard Cockayne, previous curators, Job Wilton and other early pioneers of Otari reserve and will see some great bush areas and streams. Good footwear essential. <i>Leaders: Phil Parnell & Chris Moore</i>

Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

Trust Board Report 2018-2019



This is the 19th annual report of the Trust and it has been a full year for Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust. The year will be remembered for the establishment of a Plant Conservation laboratory, the first in a Botanic Garden in New Zealand. Sadly the Trust lost its founding Chairman Dr. John Dawson, a well known author, educationalist, guide and lifetime supporter of Otari-Wilton's Bush. On behalf of members the Board conveyed its heartfelt sympathies to his wife and family.

We also lost Rodney Lewington, and a large number of Trust members attended his funeral. Our condolences were conveyed to Darea on behalf of members.

The Board activities have included:

- 1) Representing 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) Continuing trapping and pest eradication around Otari.
- 4) Providing volunteers, guides, refreshments and the BBQ for the Open Day
- 5) Compiling and marketing the 2019 Otari calendar funded by the Trust
- 6) Providing hosts at weekends for the information centre.
- 7) Recruiting and training a guiding team for both local tours and international cruise ship tours.
- 8) A range of volunteer services during each week to assist with garden maintenance.
- 9) Supervision of the re-vegetation and weeding on a monthly basis.
- 10) Planning volunteer guide operations for future tourists' visits to Otari-Wilton's Bush.
- 11) Discussions with Karori Lions and others concerning funding for the Plant Conservation Laboratory
- 12) Delivering the successful series of seminars on Tuesday evenings in March.
- 13) Planning and managing the monthly walks programme.
- 14) Maintaining the existing web site and Facebook page for the Trust.

Planning

The Board has been discussing projects within Otari and reviewing detailed plans for the rimu platform, which now looks likely to be constructed in the Council's next financial year. This project has been further delayed because management has been involved with the Plant Conservation Laboratory and in 2019 by a WCC reorganisation and lack of available contractors.

Project Rambo (Rats and Mustelid Blitzing at Otari)

This project has now been going for a number of years and is becoming increasingly successful. Jim Tait is producing regular reports and liaising with GWRC and other nearby groups. Our special thanks to those who walk these trap lines and re-bait the traps.

Hosting

The Trust has recruited and trained a number of hosts this year. We can still accommodate more if any of our members are interested. Peter and Jeannie Buxton have now taken over the roster management, please contact them as required.

Guiding

Having had a successful Guiding year in 2017, we were greatly shocked by the death of Rodney

Lewington who with others, had done a great job building and managing our guiding programme. We learnt that the number of cruise ships was going up by 40% and that some ships would be larger, meaning there would often be two tours a day. At short notice Bev Abbott and Carol West took over the scheduling of tours with assistance from Wilbur Dovey. I am pleased to say the team worked hard and coped successfully with the increase in numbers. Our special thanks to those who helped out with all the uncertainties, weather included! During the season the guides from Otari and Zealandia had an enjoyable and informative exchange visit to experience the tours offered by each organization.

We now have the challenge of 2019-2020



Monthly Walks

The monthly walks programme was well attended. The 2019 program is being managed by Clare Stanford and we have had issues with overcrowding already on our fungal forays. In the future this may mean numbers have to be restricted.

Membership

The current membership is similar to last year however revenue is down due to unpaid subscriptions, which are to be followed up. A special welcome to all new members this year.

Finances

A summarised financial report shows a larger excess of income over expenditure than previously. This was driven by a large increase in tours income and some decreases in expenditure. We were also able to receive \$2000 funding from the Ron Greenwood trust, which was added to the Trust's donation for the Conservation Laboratory. (Not shown in Accounts)

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 of 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.

Phil Parnell
Chair

Otari Awards

The recipients were:

Roy Slack and Judy Philpott.

Roy and Judy have been guiding for many years and live on the Paekakariki Hill Road. They come in to Otari especially for tours when they are rostered on. They both have extensive botanical knowledge and are a real asset to the guiding team. Roy is a wood turner and has kept guides supplied with samples of whau and other species of wood to use as visual aids on the tours.

Otari Report



Kia ora koutou,

Lots of work is being finished off in the gardens at the moment, soil is being replaced in the alpine garden and I write this as the replacement plants are ready to be planted in there. A minor reshaping of the lowest area of the gardens below the lookout has begun, with new steps leading down from above.

Myself and other members of the team have been working to supporting the ASBS-NZPCN 2019 Joint Conference: *Taxonomy for Plant Conservation – Ruia mai i Rangiātea*, happening at Te Papa from 24-28 November.

You can find all the information about this exciting joint botanical conference of the Australasian Systematic Botany Society and the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network at the website - <https://systematics.ourplants.org/>

I would like to thank the Otari Trust for also supporting the conference.

The conference comprises three days of talks, one day of workshops (seven to choose from), one day of field trips (five options), a conference dinner, and a welcome reception. We have three exciting keynote speakers, a jam-packed programme with up to 75 talks by attendees and a poster session, and even a silent auction.

We are currently trialling no rubbish bins at the Troup Lawn. We have removed the bins to encourage visitors to take away any rubbish they bring with them. We want to encourage people to think about the waste they generate when using the Troup Lawn.

We have a huge waste issue globally, this is our small contribution way of getting people to start thinking about the amount of waste they generate and how they dispose of their waste.

This is not a decision we have arrived at overnight and we are following a trend that is happening elsewhere globally. Wellington Regional Council have also removed rubbish bins in some areas of their parks. In the US the National Parks Service and light rail services in several cities have removed rubbish bins with successful results.

By encouraging everyone to take their rubbish home with them our staff can also spend their time improving the parks rather than emptying rubbish bins.

We don't have a formula to judge success. We will observe how visitors are behaving and have discussions around that behaviour. We removed the two bins at the Cockayne Lawn a couple of years ago and have no issues with litter there. If rubbish really starts to accumulate and removal of the bins creates a real issue we will to put the bins back.

Kind regards,

Rewi Elliot, Otari Team Manager

Trust Board 2018 - 2019



The Board of Trustees for the current year is:

Interim Chairman Phil Parnell	93 Amritsar St, Khandallah.	landy@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 479 2239
Interim Secretary. Wilbur Dovey	40 Warwick St., Wilton.	cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 499 1044
Treasurer. Tim Mason	54 Cashmere Ave, Khandallah.	timmason429@gmail.com	Phone: 475 8696
Bev Abbott	40 Pembroke Road, Northland	bevabbott@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 475 8468
Peter Buxton	3 Ngaio Road, Kelburn, 6012,	pebuxton@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 475 3848 027 4723455.
Jane Humble	16 Iazard Road, Khandallah	jhumble16@gmail.com	Phone: 971 6970
Ian Stockwell	2 Paisley Terrace, Karori .	stockwellian@hotmail.com	Phone: 476 3630
Carol West	9 Mamari Street Rongotai	carolwest@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 3873396

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. veeanddave93@gmail.com

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.

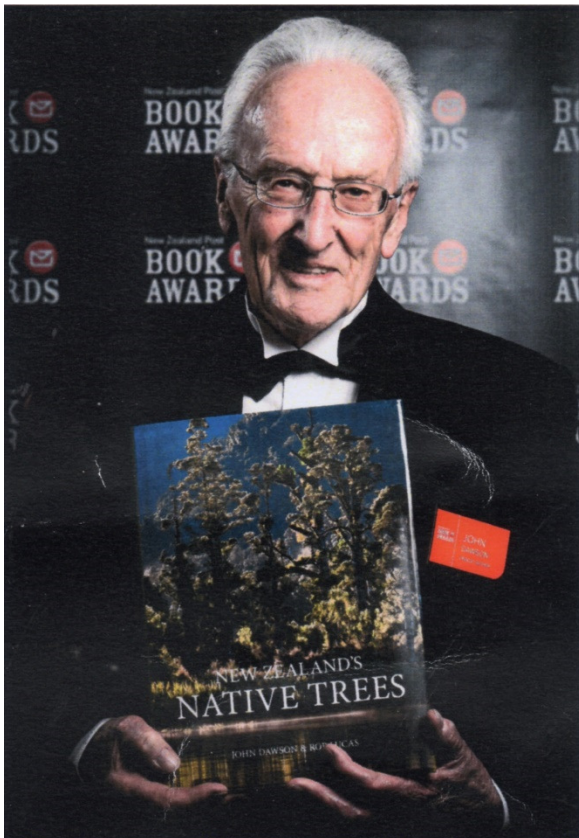
Or pay by internet banking:

Westpac Bank 030518:0205713:00 Otari Wilton's Bush Trust. Please add your name for a reference

Tim Mason, timmason429@gmail.com Phone: 475 8696

John Wyndham Dawson FLS

1 February 1928 - 11 March 2019



The Wellington botanical community has lost a renowned botanical academic, author and communicator with the death of botanist Dr John Dawson on the 11th of March after a long illness.

Born in Eketahuna, John gained his MA in botany at Victoria University of Wellington in 1953, and a PhD at the University of California, Berkeley in 1957. John spent his career at VUW: he joined the Botany Department there as a lecturer in 1958 and was an Associate Professor when he retired in 1988. He was highly regarded as a teacher, researcher, postgraduate supervisor and administrator in the Botany Department, and served a term as Head of the Department from 1984-1987.

As a lecturer, John demonstrated the same interest in, and commitment to, all the groups of plants that he was called upon to teach. As an academic, his research interests focused on the taxonomy of the Apiaceae and Myrtaceae (especially New Caledonian

Myrtaceae), and he also contributed to the biogeography and ecology of New Zealand plants, particularly native species of trees, climbers and epiphytes.

Always an active researcher, John continued to publish in his retirement, and by the time of his death he had authored and co-authored about 52 scholarly research papers and 8 books (many with photographer Rob Lucas) on the identification and ecology of New Zealand plants. Two of these books won awards, with his 'New Zealand's Native Trees' (co-authored with Rob Lucas) winning the prestigious New Zealand Post's Book of the Year Award in 2012.

John was a gifted and engaging communicator who was always enthusiastic to share his botanical knowledge with the public. In addition to writing his many books, John was heavily involved with public outreach. Over the years he ran a large number of continuing education courses, which inspired many people to further their interest in botany, and he gave talks and ran countless guided tours for the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust. John also initiated (and featured in) the production of the video 'The Ancient Forests of New Zealand' which was distributed to schools throughout New Zealand in 1991.

John's work in botany has been widely recognised. He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London (FLS), and in 2016 John was awarded the H.H. Allan Mere, a prestigious award to botanists who have made an outstanding contribution to New Zealand botany. Recently, he had a New Caledonian plant named in his honour – *Syzygium dawsoniana*.

John's calmness, consideration, generosity, enthusiasm and dry sense of humour produced a combination that has endeared him to students, colleagues and the public alike.

Barry Sneddon

John Dawson

John was well known at Otari for years. He used it for his research and for collecting samples of the flora for his students. He and Judy were great friends of Ray and Peggy Mole. Ray was the Curator for many years and lived on site. In 1999 the canopy walkway was built along with a new Information Centre, The canopy walkway improved access and enticed more people to visit. This is when John became very involved in Otari.



With interest growing in the Gardens and Reserve John along with Jock Fleming, Athol Swann and others decided that Otari needed a group similar to the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Gardens. It wasn't long before the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust was formed and the planning group became the Board. John was on the Board for a number of years serving as the first Chairman.

At this time Garden staff, I think Anita Benbrook and Leanne Killalea, suggested that as no staff were on duty in the weekend it would be a good idea to train people to be welcomers and answer queries, and thus the hosts started. Of course John Dawson was one of the first to volunteer to be a host. Other hosts loved being rostered on duty with him because he would teach them so much. Also at this time the Wellington Botanic Gardens people were training volunteers to be guides. John took part in the training and became a guide, taking tours of garden groups, groups with a botanical interest, local and from overseas.

In the statement of purpose of the Trust it says that the Trust was established amongst other things to foster appreciation of native plants and to promote this reserve as a venue for education and research. John took this to heart. As if being on the Board, hosting and guiding were not enough John also began the famous March seminars where each Tuesday a speaker is asked to come and talk about their research. He also instigated the monthly walks where one Sunday afternoon a month someone (very often John in the old days) would lead Trust Members and the public around tracks in Otari explaining what was relevant to that walk. Once a year John would take interested people off site – for example to Kaitoke Regional Park, the Wainui-o-mata Waterworks, Nga Manu and other places.

Not content with volunteering at Otari in the day-time, over the years, on evenings in the winter, John gave a series of lectures on different topics. These were held at Otari and at Onslow College.

We mustn't forget his and Rob Lucas's wonderful books. These he sold to the Trust at a reduced price so that we could sell them to the public much cheaper than retail booksellers. And there are the beautiful cards we sell – Rob's photos from the books with text written by John on the back. There are various trails around Otari, some steep and with big steps – not for the unfit. John decided that there should be a trail that while it stayed on the flat should showcase the unusual and interesting plants in Otari and hence the Treasure Trail was born. When John launched it I don't think he anticipated the effect it would have. It is now the Trail used by guides showing around cruise ship tours and as such is wonderful source of income for the Trust. At the Trust AGM in 2017 the Chairman announced the establishment of the John Dawson Education Fund, using money raised by the tours.

As you see John gave so generously of his time and knowledge to Otari and the Trust and the public, only asking in return that he might inspire and instil in others his great love of our native flora.

John loved Otari and everyone at Otari loved John.

Margaret Crimp

Glow Worm Walks at Otari

Walks on Fridays: 14 June, 28 June. 12 July, 26 July.

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. Cost: \$6, children under 12 free.

Bookings are essential – search 'Eventfinda' for 'glow worm'.

Leader: Dave Burton



Glow Worm Special for Trust members only: Friday 5 July, 7pm. This additional walk is specifically for Otari Trust members, and there will be no charge for the walk. It will start from the Information Centre at 7 p.m., and any Otari Trust members, partners and children are welcome. Bring warm clothes, good footwear, and a torch. Glow worms are guaranteed! Numbers are limited to 20. If you are interested, ring Dave at 9388207.

Leader: Dave Burton

Jocelyn Hoskin

After 14 years as Treasurer for the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust Jocelyn has retired at the AGM. On behalf of the Board I would like to sincerely thank her for all the work she has put in dealing with mail, banks, our members, the staff at Otari and prospective new members. She has been ably assisted by Athol Swann, our previous Chairman and auditor. I am sure she will look forward to more time to visit family and enjoy life while visiting Otari for recreation rather than work.

Phil Parnell

Athol Swann

Athol Swann, previously Chairman of the OWBT has kindly played the role of Auditor over the last twelve years for the Trust. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his work and advice over that time. On behalf of all members, we wish him all the best for the future.

Sexual Deception of Orchids

For those of you who attended the first of the March seminars given by Ian St George:
"The various contrivances by which the New Zealand orchids self-fertilise".

You will know that Ian was disappointed he could not use the video as planned.

So here is the link to Anne Gaskett's video if you would like to watch it:

Direct link to clip: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-sexual-deception-of-orchids-anne-gaskett>

From The Nursery ...

We often publish photos from collecting trips, and the plants can look impressive. In the last issue we had photos of Central Otago plants. But a large amount of seed and cuttings is also collected and successfully propagated for Otari's collection. Here are some results currently in the nursery, from Eleanor Burton's trip to Central Otago.

The ones in the white non-gravel are the seeds. The ones doing well in tubes are from cuttings and divisions.



Photos: Eleanor Burton



Otari Tours in the 2018/19 season

The 2018/19 guiding season, our first season without Rodney Lewington's leadership, was both challenging and successful.

Look at the stats:

We organised and ran 46 tours in the six months between October and March, giving over 1,200 international visitors an introduction to Otari. The busiest guides among our team of 21 did 17 tours each.

We also had to prepare for some tours being cancelled the day before the tour because there were too few bookings for these tours to be financially viable for the company. On other occasions, we had to tell some guides not to come, ("stand-down"), because we didn't need as many guides for the numbers coming. We'll be trying some new ways of reducing the need for stand-downs next season.

The "season" for the volunteers who handled the administrative, financial and support roles lasts for more than 6 months. The 2019/20 season has already begun. We've accepted 56 bookings but declined a request from a cruise line that wanted to book 16 tours. We will also be arranging tours for some groups in Wellington for conferences.

The Trust runs two main types of tours; cruise ship tours which require us to have the passengers back on the bus 65 minutes after they arrived, and specialist tours for groups of botanists, gardeners and horticulturalists which take 90 or 120 minutes.

The specialist tours mean guides enjoy having more time to introduce groups of interested people to more aspects of Otari and the New Zealand flora. Enhanced by anecdotes and side stories.

Most of our tours were for busloads off cruise ships. We split each bus load into sub-groups of 10-12 visitors, and assign two guides to each group. The lead guide tells their favourite stories in their own words as they move along the standard route used by all guides. The second guide, called the "tail-ender" (or just tail), remains at the back of the group, retrieving individuals who may be about to wander off to see something of interest, or stop to take more photos. The Trust organises several training sessions and debriefs each season to provide opportunities for problem solving and updates about plants. The problems can be quite varied, e.g., what to do if the bus gets lost between the wharf and Otari; what to do if the companion of a person in a wheelchair is not strong enough to push the wheel chair through the loose gravel, and what to do when a visitor asks you the name of a plant, and you don't know. All guides do a health and safety briefing with Rewi Elliot, manager of Otari. More commonly, we offer less mobile visitors an alternative route to the steep descent beside the conifer grove where loose gravel is a hazard.

Guiding at Otari is a very rewarding experience. Individuals often comment on our enthusiasm and knowledge as they leave. Guiding is also an excellent way of learning about more of NZ's unique flora.

We'd like to expand the current team of 10 leads and 11 tails with five more leads and five more tail-enders by October so we can accept more tours, relieve the pressure on some of the busiest guides, and raise more money for Otari. The team raised about \$15,500 in the 2018/19 season, close to 60% of the Trust's annual income.

Thanks to Carol West who crunched the numbers for this article.

Bev Abbott





Acaena glabra

Piripiri, bidibid

Acaena glabra is found in montane to subalpine habitats throughout the Southern Alps. It is a plant of screes and river beds. It has glossy mid green leaves with no hairs and an angular appearance. Like most *Acaena*, the seeds are armed with barbs which enable them to stick to anything that brushes past, an effective if annoying method of dispersal. This plant was recently acquired from Percy's Reserve and should presently make its way into one of the rockeries.

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

(Supporting Otari-Wilton's Bush Reserve)

Membership Application Form

We are delighted to welcome new supporters and there are a number of ways you can help us to preserve this internationally significant native botanic garden and bush reserve for future generations. 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. Please fill out the form below.

YOUR DETAILS		MEMBERSHIP	\$
Name(s):		Student/ Unwaged \$5	\$
Address:		Individual \$10	\$
PHONE Number(s):		Double/Family \$15	\$
Email Address:		Corporate \$30	\$
*Donation			\$
Billing name & address: (if different from above)		Total Payment:	\$

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed (Please make out to Otari Wilton's Bush Trust.) Please post to: The Treasurer, Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, 160 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington 6012	<input type="checkbox"/> Paid electronically (please mark DONATION & your NAME in reference.) Westpac account # 030518 0205713 000
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*The Trust is registered as a Charitable organisation and donations over \$5.00 qualify for a tax rebate to individual taxpayers. (annual limits apply). Unfortunately we are unable to process payments by Credit Card.

☐

I would like a receipt for my donation.

• VOLUNTEER

We have over 100 volunteers who are active regularly at Otari. It's up to you how much time you commit – and you can choose how you would like to get involved from a range of activities, from hosting and guiding tours to working in the Otari nursery, pest control and forest restoration.

Please contact Secretary Wilbur Dovey cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz

