

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views September, 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.
Saturday 21 September	Open Day Details see page 5
Sunday 20 October 2pm	“The Birds of Otari” Dr Hugh Robertson is a Principal Science Advisor at the Department of Conservation, and co-author of <i>The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand</i> and <i>The Handguide to the Birds of New Zealand</i> . He is a local resident and often does bird counts at Otari Wiltons Bush. This will be a one to 1.5 hour easy walk with Hugh, learning about the birds that inhabit Otari. <i>Leader: Dr Hugh Robertson</i>
November	No walk due to NZPCN Conference

HELP!

Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day, Saturday 21 September

We need your help in different ways:

- **Helpers to mind the different stalls – cakes/biscuits, drinks, barbecue and cards/books/raffles;**
- **Providers of cakes, muffins, biscuits, loaves 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 before 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon, 20 September, or delivered to the cake stall on the Saturday morning.

For any questions or to volunteer, please contact:

Carol West, 387 3396, carolwest@xtra.co.nz

Thanks to those who have already agreed to help

Chairman's Message

Kia ora koutou,

Things are really starting to happen on all fronts at Otari-Wilton's Bush. We are all looking forward to the next two months when we will be hosting a number of visitors from New Zealand and overseas. The weather is just starting to warm up and spring is in the air.



The big news is at last we have some movement on the conservation platform for the 800 year old Rimu on the upper blue trail. Some of you will have seen the Independent Herald article with photos of the helicopter taking up materials to the site last week. The Trust on behalf of members has donated \$25,000 towards the WCC construction costs for this structure. We hope it will be completed prior to Open Day when we will be taking a guided walk up to see it after you have bought plants and enjoyed coffee and BBQ of course!

Open day is September 21 and further details are elsewhere in this newsletter. If you would like to help, contact Carol West (see page 1). It will be a big day and extra parking will be available in the Bowling club.

The BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand) conference will many bring visitors to Wellington and Otari during late October when it is being held at Te Papa. See <https://www.bganz.org.au/bganz-9th-congress-te-papa-wellington-new-zealand/>

This will be immediately followed by the Australian Garden History Society Conference <https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/events-conferences/category/conference/> on October 23-25th.

Then later in November 24-28 will be ASBS-NZPCN native plant conference <https://systematics.ourplants.org/> being organised by our Curator/Team Leader Rewi Elliot. Plenty for everyone to see and do, all at Te Papa. There you can see the new Te Taio Nature exhibit <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/visit/exhibitions/te-taiao-nature> which was lead curated by Dr Leon Perrie, long time supporter of Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Hosts and Guides are preparing for a very busy season and anyone interested in helping as guides please let Wilbur Dovey know, as preparatory training will take place soon. The season starts in early October.

The monthly walks have had a mixed response and weather. Jim Tait's "Predators" June walk was rained off and will be held again in 2020. Bev Abbott had a small number of people for Evolution Processes and the Heritage walk on Sunday had eight people in great weather. Members should remember time and effort goes into these walks and we would hope that more people attend. Dave Burton is getting good numbers to see glow worms I understand.

The Trust looks forward to a busy end to the year and thanks to all our members and volunteers who support this wonderful Botanic Garden and Bush reserve. See you on Open Day!!!

Cheers

Phil Parnell
Chair Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

Otari Report



Kia ora koutou

The forest and gardens are looking very healthy at Otari this time of year, it really feels like spring is upon us. The team has been busy renovating garden paths, lawns and forest tracks on the upper blue ridge. This track leads on to the 800 year old rimu where Outsiders Ltd are constructing a viewing platform. This new feature will prevent further root compaction around the tree and provide a place to sit and admire the oldest tree in Wellington. The project has had a significant contribution from the Otari Trust, many thanks for your support. Fingers crossed it will be finished in time for Open Day.

Open Day this year is Saturday 21st September. There will be the ever popular plant sale, Otari Trust BBQ, guided walks, Open Lab and a return visit from the nature inspired craft pop-up market that will be held in the Leonard Cockayne Centre.

I've been asked to write for this edition as Rewi is still heavily involved in supporting the joint New Zealand Plant Conservation and Australasian Systematic Botany Society conference being held here in Wellington in November, for further details visit: <https://systematics.ourplants.org/>. It will be a great event that starts off on Sunday 24th November with various workshops, two of which are being held here at Otari. I also want to thank the Wellington Botanical Society for running a field trip here at Otari on the same Sunday to support the conference. It should be a lot of fun and a great chance to introduce international visitors to our unique NZ flora.

There have been a few renovations around the gardens this winter, especially opening up the lower collections and completing another part of the Alpine garden. There is more seating around the forest collections made from slabs of the much missed tawa that fell in the fernery during a storm in 2013.

The propagation house is having a well needed fix up at the moment. It will be re-skinned, benches renewed, work area improved and a much more reliable misting system installed. Now that seedlings are being germinated in our state of the art lab we need a cleaner more efficient propagation house to help establish them. We are also hoping this work will be completed by Open Day.

We are hoping to have a great flowering year this year. Many plants are beginning to bud up. Perhaps even the *Metrosideros bartlettii*. It will only be the second time this beautiful and incredibly rare tree has flowered at Otari. We're hoping last week's sudden frost hasn't done too much damage.

Finn Michalak

Curator, Otari-Wilton's Bush

finn.michalak@wcc.govt.nz

Note: some information about the conference is on Page 10

Trust Board 2018 - 2019



The Board of Trustees for the current year is:

Chairman Phil Parnell	93 Amritsar St, Khandallah.	landy@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 479 2239
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: 479 0544
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

There are still more than 60 of you who haven't paid yet!

Subscriptions for the next financial year fell due in March. You have until the end of September if you wish to remain a member of the Trust.

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: 479 0544

**Celebrate our native flora at
Otari Open Day – Rā Tūwhera ki
Otari**



**Saturday 21 September
9.30am to 2pm**

**A great day for first-timers and regulars to
New Zealand's only native botanic garden.
There will be kid's activities, food, handmade
gifts and plants for sale at our annual market.**

**9.30-2pm Nature inspired market
Featuring nature themed goods by local makers
Where: Leonard Cockayne Centre (see page9 for poster)**

**10am Native plants for sale
Where: Cockayne Lawn**

**10am Open Lab
Work with real lab equipment
to investigate what
creatures are out there on a
microscopic level.
Where: Information Centre**

**11am Free guided walk
through Otari-Wilton's Bush
Come hear stories about New
Zealand native plants.
(1 hour)
Where: meet at the
Information Centre.**

**OTARI
POP UP**

**a NATURE THEMED MARKET
WITH LOCALLY MADE GOODS**

ceramics ✕ plants ✕ jewellery
art ✕ papergoods ✕ clothing
accessories ✕ natural skincare
homeware & more

**21 SEPTEMBER
9.30am - 2pm**

part of: **W** Otari-Wilton's Bush
Open Day & Plant Sale

@OTARIPOPUP @OTARIPOPUP

A Request for volunteers.

Thank you very much to those of you who have recently volunteered as Hosts or Guides. We would welcome any recruits to help us with what is going to be a busy and interesting season.



Changes to the way we do things!

We are currently in the process of introducing a new computer system for our accounts and to save costs and handling time, we are introducing Newsletters by email.

If you still want to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter please let Jane know.

Jane Humble jhumble16@gmail.com 021 636 226

Correction to June News and Views

We apologise for an error that crept into Barry Sneddon's Obit on John Dawson.

The fourth paragraph should read:

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.

Sandra Clarke

We are sad to record the death of Sandra Clarke who was a founding Board member of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.

Sandra was a trained historian and wrote numerous articles for our newsletter most prior to 2009. In particular she wrote on Maori history, curators and heritage including the three part series Two Houses and a Black Bridge.

Several times, when she had finished researching a topic, Sandra would put the information on display in the Information Centre aided by Stan Pillar.

Sandra lived locally in Crofton Downs and then Wadestown. She was often seen on her motor scooter around the area when on duty as a host or other meetings at Otari. I met Sandra at Huntleigh Care facility last year and she was in good spirits and had fond memories of Otari and some of its characters over the years. Our sympathies go to her family and she will certainly remain in the history of this wonderful place.



Rimu viewing platform at Otari

We're building a viewing platform adjacent to the 800+ year old rimu on the Blue Trail in Otari-Wilton Bush so visitors will be able to really appreciate the significance of the city's oldest tree without damaging the ground around it.

- We expect the viewing deck to be ready for all to enjoy by late September – weather permitting.
- Contractor for the build is Outsiders Ltd. Outsiders Ltd specialise in top end hard and soft landscaping and are well utilised as a result by Parks, Sport and Rec staff for landscaping projects. www.outsiders.co.nz
- The platform has been designed by Frame Group Limited. Frame Group Limited have been involved in many similar, and larger, projects with notable trees for DOC and Councils around NZ. www.frame.co.nz .
- The root structure and geology where the platform will be built has been mapped (as much as possible) by engineering firm Cardno. WCC senior arborist has also been involved in the work.
- The platform footprint is approx. 25m³. Designed to hold ~20 standing adults. There will be some seating provided also and eventually interpretation signs about the rimu and surrounding forest.
- No concrete will be used in the build. Timber used is pine. There is some wriggle room in the design in case we encounter significant tree roots and need to shift things around.
- Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust has offered a contribution of \$25000 towards the project.



For further details please contact
Rewi Elliot at 021 227 8169 or
email rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz

Board members, Rewi Elliot, Wilbur Dovey, Bev Abbott, Carol West, Chris from Outsiders, David Sole, Tim Mason, Jane Humble, Jocelyn Hoskin.

Photos: Above Chris Moore

Below: Phil Parnell



Hosts sought for students keen on Aotearoa's culture and Otari.

Kia ora. Our small non-profit off campus study network is seeking homestay hosts for our students of environmental studies and social justice issues.

Would you have a spare room and the enthusiasm to welcome a positive young American third-year university student into your home? The students are volunteering at Ōtari or nearby environmental organisations.

Families / hosts receive a \$300 weekly stipend for all food (3 meals every day and snacks) board, power/internet and other costs. The dates are October 5 to December 3 2019. For more information please

email Anna.Kingsford@ntozinternational.co.nz; free-call [04 586 0400](tel:045860400). Thank you.



June Walk – Animal Pests and Predators



In June Jim Tait took members on a quick insight and tour along the circular walkway in Otari. Phil Parnell's photo shows Wendy Allardice holding a rat caught in one of the traps which was then reset only to catch another rat 24 hours later. That same day the Dompost reported that many groups were noticing an increase in number and variety of rats being caught.

Jim adds: I have to confess that Wendy and I cheated a little. Last Tuesday we checked and rebaited the traps to make sure they had nothing disgusting in them - like a three week old dead rat. It was part of our normal cycle though bought forward a few days.

When we rebaited in addition to the dried rabbit meat and peanut butter we added to the peanut butter a few drops of almond essence as this has been very successful in backyards - we wanted to increase the chances of a rat being in at least one of

the traps for people to see.

Normally we would not add the almond essence as it adds a bit of extra time when we have the whole line to do but we thought this was a special occasion.

If any trap was going to have a rat in it it would be that trap as it has been catching a few rats recently. The other traps along the northern part Circular Walk catch far less frequently and the traps at the top of the Red Trail have not caught anything for ages.

None of us have any idea whether adding almond essence (or vanilla or aniseed) to the peanut butter actually works as no proper trials have been done. We may have caught the rat anyway - but we do like trying changes

Heritage Walk in Otari-Wilton's Bush

On a beautiful late winters day in Wellington seven members plus one lady from Barnard St. explored a number of aspects of Otari Heritage. We dedicated the walk to Sandra Clarke who wrote a series for newsletters in 2008 called Two houses and a Black Bridge.



We started at the Wilton plaque near the lime kiln of the original farm and walked past the sign of the original gifting of the reserve and picnic ground.

We then went to the Banks entrance where we were introduced to Leonard Cockayne and the first caretaker/curator Andrew McKay.

We then visited the Brockie seat, Cockayne grave and the Ray Mole plaque on the front of the wall under the Lady Bledisloe seat



Then a longer walk through the Troup picnic area, to the Wilton grave and then Andy McKay's grave in Karori cemetery.

We then decided, since it was later in the day to return via the revegetation plot near Ian Galloway park rather than the longer blue trail route. Back to the main car park which was starting to empty out and feeling uplifted by the rich heritage of this internationally ranked conservation reserve.

Phil Parnell



Walter Brockie and unknown photographer

Glow worms in Otari

Bioluminescence, the production of a cold, efficient light through a protein/enzyme interaction, is common in nature, and one of the most spectacular bioluminescent organisms in New Zealand is the glow worm, *Arachnocampa luminosa*. The glow worm is found only in New Zealand – Australia has a related species, but compared with ours theirs is totally pathetic!

The glow worm is the larva of a fungus gnat. The larva lives in a transparent tube or “hammock” from which it hangs a fishing net of sticky threads. In torchlight, it looks like a miniature chandelier. Glow worms prefer a moist, vertical, sheltered bank, preferably with mud at the bottom where the midges hatch. Otari is fortunate to have just such a bank, and there glow worms live in some profusion, and on a calm, moist night they are a spectacular sight.

Ron Fountain and I have done several guided walks to the glow worm site this year. Walking down through the bush at night is clearly a new experience for many of the people we take on the walks, and it gives us an opportunity to talk about many of the features of Otari on the way.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ron - he has always been cheerfully reliable, and I have really appreciated his help.

Dave Burton

Taxonomy for Plant Conservation

– Ruia mai i Rangiatea

A joint conference at Te Papa Museum
24–28 November 2019, Wellington, New Zealand



The Australasian Systematic Botany Society and the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network are proud to announce our joint conference *Taxonomy for Plant Conservation – Ruia mai i Rangiatea* in November 2019.

- Keep up to date with our stimulating and comprehensive range of speaker presentations
- Explore Wellington's forests and rugged coastlines on our field trips
- Network with people involved in a wide variety of plant conservation work
- Discuss and learn about a range of issues at our workshops
- There will be opportunities to tour the Te Papa herbarium and Otari Native Botanic Garden

Symposium themes

- Celebrating 250 years of advances in botanical science and conservation since Banks and Solander
- Aligning western science with Mātauranga Māori for better conservation outcomes
- The Decadal Plan and the future of taxonomy in Australasia
- Recovery of threatened plants—success stories?
- Making the most of e-resources
- Conservation in response to environmental change
- The contribution of citizen science
- Hybridisation—an ongoing dilemma for conservation
- Decoding the green—combating plant blindness
- Biodiversity and the built environment

About the Australasian Systematic Botany Society

Our 2019 conference will be in partnership with the Australasian Systematic Botany Society (ASBS). With over 300 members, the ASBS is an incorporated association of people with professional and amateur interests in Australasian systematic botany. The aim of the Society is to promote the study of plant systematics in Australasia.

Plant systematics includes taxonomy and nomenclature, and is the science that unravels the relationships and evolutionary history of the flora. It provides the framework for all comparative biology and is essential for the identification and conservation of threatened species, the management of native vegetation, and the detection of naturalised species.

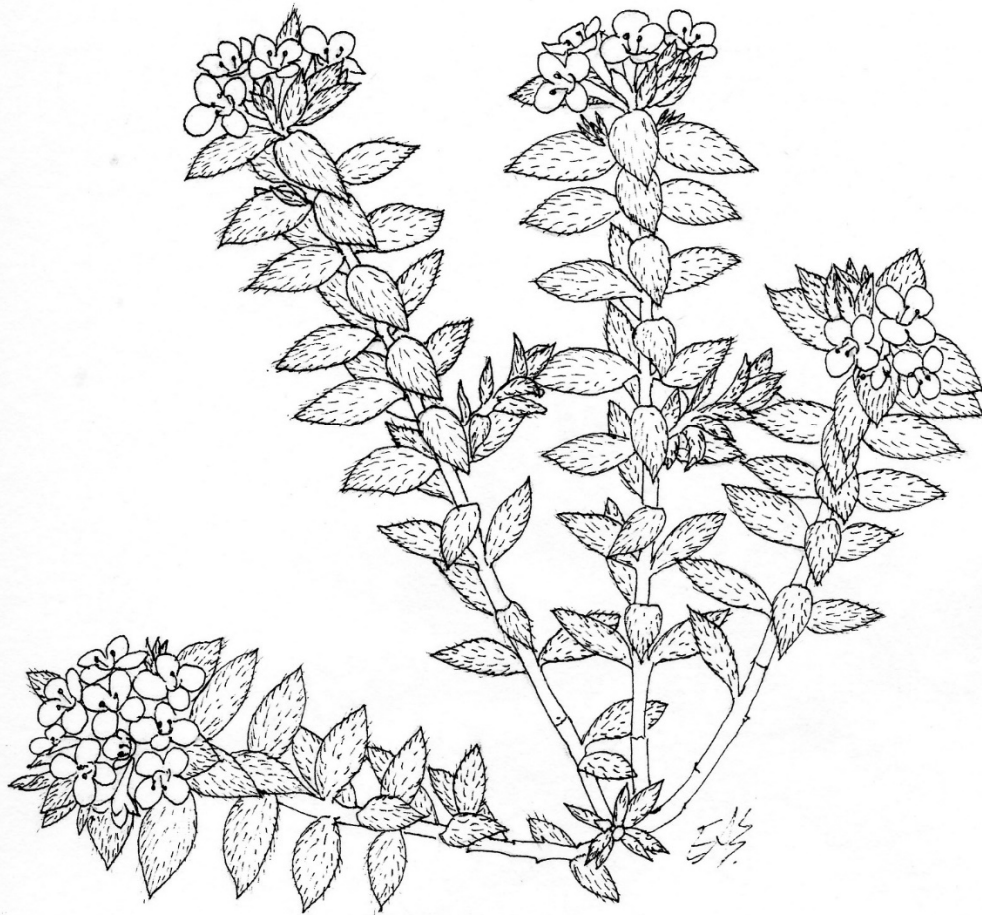
ASBS website: www.asbs.org.au Email: secretary.asbs@gmail.com

About the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

The NZPCN was established in 2003 and has since grown to more than 800 members worldwide. The Network's vision is that "the rich, diverse and unique native plant life of New Zealand is recognised, cherished and restored".

Our biennial conferences are highly regarded as the best place to meet people who are passionate about plant conservation and to network and collaborate on shared issues and challenges. Our website along with our newsletter, *Trilepedia*, are leading sources of information about native plants and their conservation in New Zealand, receiving over 800,000 page views per year.

NZPCN website: www.nzpcn.org.nz Email: info@nzpcn.org.nz



Pimelea x aridula

This plant is currently growing in the nursery at Otari. It is probably hybrid in origin, *Pimelea aridula* generally having narrower leaves than this. *Pimelea aridula* is a central Otago species, growing in subalpine rocky habitats especially on schist. It has two subspecies, both endangered. Pimeleas in cultivation can be a bit tricky but make good rock garden plants, in sunny well drained sites. This plant came from Titoki Nursery in Nelson where it has been growing for some time; unfortunately we don't know any more about where it originally came from.

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
--	--

*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