

ŌTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views March, 2022

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. Easy walking and sensible walking shoes recommended. Web site: www.owbt.nz

Unless otherwise stated walks are free to Trust members & children under 15, otherwise \$6 (includes \$1 booking fee. Please note that bookings are essential. Please make your booking via Eventfinda .eventfinda.co.nz

Second Saturdays	Plant care is on the second Saturday of each month. 9am. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 499 1044.
Sunday 27 February 2pm	How do our forests regenerate? Trees don't live for ever and the major forest canopy species in Aotearoa have different strategies for replacing themselves. During this 1-1.5 hour walk through the gardens we'll learn about the regeneration strategies of kauri, beech and podocarp/hardwood forest species. <i>Leader: Dr Carol West</i> Numbers Limited to 20, family groups welcome
Tuesdays March	March Seminars. 7.30 in the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane. Wilton Road Gold coin donation. See page 5
Sunday 27 March 2pm	Discovering the insect life of Otari In this 1.30-1.45 min walk you will be encouraged to see the world through the life of an insect living in Otari-Wilton Bush. <i>Leader: Eric Edwards (Entomologist)</i> Numbers Limited to 20, family groups welcome.
Sunday 27 March 2pm	Introduction to the Fungi Kingdom. Fungi are different from plants and have their own biological kingdom. This walk will give you a basic understanding of this enormous kingdom and give you an idea of where to find them. Duration: around 2 hours. Numbers Limited to 20, family groups welcome <i>Leader: Geoff Ridley</i>
Sunday 29 May 2pm	More about the Fungi Kingdom. Meet at the Visitor Centre. This foray is for those who already know the basics about this fascinating kingdom and goes into more detail about the fungi present in Otari on the day. Duration: around 2 hours. <i>Leader: Geoff Ridley</i> Numbers Limited to 20

Message from the Chair

Kia ora koutou katoa

Have you had a chance to experience Tāne Whakapiripiri/Ōtari Visitor Centre yet? The Board members were fortunate to be invited to a dawn ceremony in mid-December when the new name was bestowed, and it was officially opened. It's a very inviting, much fresher looking space with accessible information. See the story elsewhere in this newsletter.



The renovation of the Lions Ōtari Lab involving the Leonard Cockayne Centre is almost complete and its different from what I indicated in the last newsletter. Following a generous donation from Darea Sherratt, in memory of Rodney Lewington, HEPTA filters were purchased to enable creation of two sterile rooms. This means the portacomis office and library space and the old flat is now laboratory with two sterile rooms. New incubators with much better temperature and light programming capability are already proving their worth with seed germination trials: some species are now happily germinating whereas in the old incubator they refused to as the temperature and light regimes were too extreme. It's great that WCC has been able to fund this much-needed expansion of lab space at this time. The Deane Foundation also provided a generous grant to enable the fitout.



In early February, some of the Board members accompanied WCC staff and contractors on the proposed new route from the lower Blue Trail to the upper Blue Trail that will improve access to Moko, the ancient rimu. Everyone agreed the new route is much gentler and will have minimal impact on the forest vegetation as well as providing some nice vantage points. This visit happened on the last day of a prolonged dry spell and the understorey shrubs were showing their distress in many places. Thankfully, the two days of rain that followed will have fixed that!

Recently, the Trust has worked with Onslow Garden Club who generously provided a grant to cover the costs of attendance of an Otari staff member to the Practical Field Botany course, held each summer at Cass Field Station, University of Canterbury. Tom Belworthy was the lucky recipient and we'll hear about his experience there in the March seminar series.

Thank you for your support of the Trust and Ōtari Wilton's Bush. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see some of you at the March seminars.

Carol West

Chair

Ōtari Update



Until the storm of Valentines Weekend, we had been faring well in the wettest February in Wellington on record. However, that Sunday afternoon we were alerted to a large slip that undermined our Service Entrance near the Banks Entrance. Fortunately local crane operators were able to rescue our ute which was stranded below the slip. We are also experiencing ongoing flooding in the Northern Carpark which we are investigating with Wellington Water. (photos see page 8)

With all the rain and humid weather the weeds have had perfect conditions to thrive. My team has been working hard (with the support of our regular volunteers) to keep on top of the situation and the gardens are looking beautiful. If you haven't seen the *Rubus parvus* in-fruit (a native relative of blackberry) make sure you check them out on the path next to our border with Ōtari School. Also keep an eye out for the tiny black native bees which seem to be constantly hovering over flowering koromiko (*Hebe/Veronica* spp.) in the Veronica Garden. It has been another good year for kākā – two were recently banded by DOC from a nest in a naturally hollowed out hīnau near the Troup Picnic Area. Just this morning I saw a flock of 12 kererū flying past as I wrote this update!

The Lion Ōtari Plant Conservation Laboratory has been relocated from the Portacom and is now almost fully set up in the Curators House. We are also in the process of relocating our library to the Portacom. A big thanks is due to Karin, and our supporters who made this happen, in particular, Darea Sheratt for her donation, Denton Trust, and Deane Endowment Trust who have all been very generous. We are very pleased to have been successful in applying to Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund to allow us to start a project looking to store seed of Wellington's threatened native orchids and their fungal partners.

We have been investigating a couple of changes to our track network, and are hoping to start construction on an improved route to Moko the 800 year old rimu in the next few months. We have been working to find a route through the forest that will make it accessible to more visitors (a gentle gradient with less steps!) while minimising the effects of construction. Hopefully more visitors will be able to make the trip in the future.

Another reminder that members are welcome to take FREE mulch from the Northern Carpark. Staff will cordon off the pile with rope if the pile is reduced too much. So if there is no rope barrier people are welcome to take mulch for their gardens. Please also keep an eye out for Old Man's Beard at your place or in neighbouring reserves. If you do spot OMB, please take a photo and add an observation to iNaturalist. A free app is available to assist with this. If you are confident it is OMB, make an effort to remove it if you are able to. The seeds are easily blown about on the wind, and we are often removing seedlings from Ōtari. If we all work together to keep weeds like OMB under control it makes all the efforts more sustainable in the long term.

Tim Park

Kaiwhakahaere Ōtari | Manager Ōtari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve
Ngā Māra o Pōneke | Wellington Gardens
Papa Tākaro Hākinakina | Parks, Sport and Recreation
Mi Heke Ki Pōneke | Wellington City Council
[0212479739](tel:0212479739) Tim.Park@wcc.govt.nz Wellington.govt.nz

Trust Board 2020 – 2021



The Board of Trustees for the current year is:

Chair: Carol West	9 Mamari Street Rongotai	carolwest@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 387 3396
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
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Maggie Bayfield	67 Weld Street, Wadestown	bayfield@xtra.co.nz	Ph: 027 545 4333
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Phil Parnell	93 Amritsar St, Khandallah.	landy@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 479 2239

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

Drawings from Otari.

The Trust now has printed a new updated edition, which looks great. It is now available from the Information Centre or from Jane Humble. Price \$20

Eleanor Burton did her first drawing for the Otari Wilton's Bush Trust in 2000. The Trust was then the Otari-Wilton's Bush Support Group and the drawing was for their first newsletter.

Her drawings have appeared in almost every newsletter since. These are the drawings that appear in this book, together with some interpretation drawings and other work produced for Otari. The comments have been updated as some of the plants are now in different places, and a few are not currently in the gardens, but may be in the nursery.

Drawings from Ōtari



Drawings by Eleanor Burton

March Seminars

All seminars will start at 7.30 p.m. in Tāne Whakapiripiri/Ōtari Visitor Centre, Wilton Road. Gold coin donation. Please note that vaccine passes are required and will be checked on entry to Tāne Whakapiripiri. Also, as the Visitor Centre will be well ventilated, please bring a jacket to stay warm if it's a chilly evening. There will be no supper provided.

The talks will also be available live via Zoom for those who are unable to or prefer not to attend in person. Please use this link to join all five seminars via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87254404384?pwd=b3FwUlhmbjJRdk1wRUV3ZEJHbi9ZQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 5440 4384

Passcode: 626253

We are grateful to Wellington Botanical Society who have generously enabled this option for the Trust.

Tuesday March 1: Tim Park and Tom Belworthy “Reflections on Cockayne's Vision for Ōtari and how we work to realise it in the modern world”.

Tim Park is the new Manager at Ōtari, with a background in plant ecology and ecological restoration. Tom Belworthy is the new Gardener and recipient of the Onslow Garden Club Grant to attend University of Canterbury's Practical Field Botany course at Cass.

Tuesday March 8: “Growing a Tree Sense for Aotearoa New Zealand”. Susette Goldsmith

Dr Susette Goldsmith is an independent writer and editor of non-fiction, and Adjunct Research Fellow at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka. She has recently published the book “Tree Sense: ways of thinking about trees”.

Tuesday March 15: “Banishing the Beard – ridding Wellington of old man's beard”. Nigel Charman

Nigel Charman is a founder of the Old Man's Beard Free Wellington website and campaign, which was born from a local community group in Aro Valley called “Old Man's Beard Must Go”.

Tuesday March 22: “City moths and habitats”. Eric Edwards

Eric Edwards is an entomologist who has worked for DOC over a couple of decades focussing on land conservation issues and invertebrate conservation.

Tuesday March 29: “Conservation, collections and colourful characters – the remarkable story of Otari-Wilton's Bush”. Bee Dawson

Bee Dawson is a social historian who enjoys researching and writing books on the history of people, places and gardens. She is currently writing a history of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush for the Trust, ahead of the centenary of the opening of the Otari Open Air Native Plant Museum in 2026.



Tāne Whakapiripiri/Ōtari Visitor Centre Dawn Ceremony



It was quite chilly at 5.30 am on Sunday 19 December when manawhenua, Deputy Mayor Sarah Free, Gardens staff and OWBT members assembled in the main carpark for the ceremony to rename the Visitor Centre and open it in its refurbished state. After the sounds of the conch mingled with the dawn chorus we were led through the waharoa and welcomed into Tāne Whakapiripiri where, in single file, we could view the new interpretation and fresh look of the Visitor Centre. Speeches on the deck were followed by refreshments and an opportunity to look more closely at the new displays including the digital display.

Some of us also accompanied the Deputy Mayor to the Leonard Cockayne Centre where we were able to explain the importance of the expansion of the Lions Ōtari Plant Conservation Laboratory. She was very interested and somewhat perplexed that Council did not know more about this work.



The Visitor Centre is named after Tāne, the god of the forest, who had many names. One of those was Tāne Whakapiripiri which means 'Tāne who draws people together'.

Our first look inside Tāne Whakapiripiri. Wilbur Dovey, Bee Dawson and Kevin O'Connor are among the people filing through.

Holden Hohaia speaks of the significance of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush to mana whenua and the reason for changing the name of the Visitor Centre. Deputy Mayor Sarah Free also spoke and when it was my turn, I unashamedly asked for the planned expenditure on the Nursery upgrade to be brought forward so it could be completed ahead of the centenary of the opening of the Ōtari Open Air Native Plant Museum in 2026. Tim Park rounded off the speeches and invited us to explore the new interpretation.





Gail Andrews standing in her favourite part of Tāne Whakapiripiri. As a long-term host, it was fitting that Gail would be hosting on the first morning the Visitor Centre was open.



Gail points out features of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush to Deputy Mayor Sarah Free. Two new table tops have aerial photographs of the reserve at different scales and are helpful to show visitors what they might explore.

Carol West



Important Update.

Please do not leave valuables in your cars at when parked in the carparks at Ōtari. There have been a couple of thefts reported from vehicles in the Northern Carpark as well as an increase in break ins into homes Wadestown and Wilton recently.

Cats

Cats are in the news again with SPCA calling for national cat legislation. The benefits of cats for companionship are well known and appreciated by many but they do have a huge impact on wildlife. Feral and stray cats are a huge problem but managing them, and often distinguishing them from domestic cats, can be difficult.

Otari-Wilton Bush is a haven for native wildlife in the city surrounded by households, many of whom have cats. Cat owners in the vicinity (and cats can travel large distances, despite what their owners might think) are urged to make sure they are responsible cat owners whatever the rules or legislation. This includes microchipping (to avoid your cat being considered a stray), de-sexing, keeping your cat inside at night (in many overseas countries cats are indoor pets 24/7), and making it wear a collar with a bell or colourful material.

Maggie Bayfield



Storm photos

Taken by Tim Park

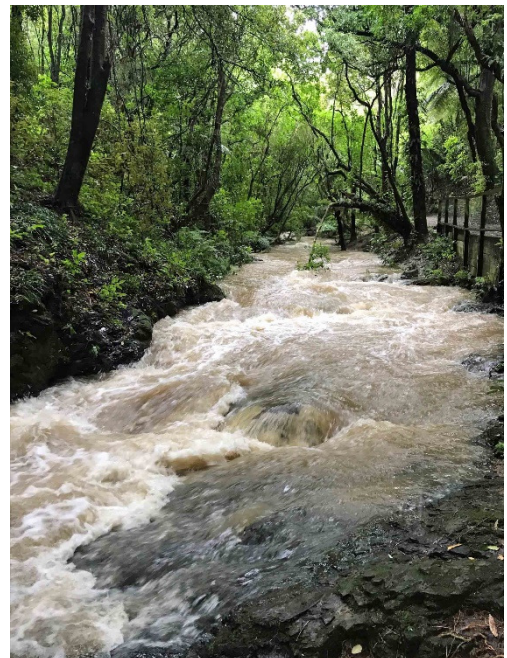
Top left: Clear side stream waterfall flowing into Kaiwharawhara Stream

Middle left: Slip on service entrance

Bottom left: Low footbridge at Troop Picnic area with Kaiwharawhara Stream in full flow
Otari Ute being craned out

Top Right Darwin's Rock fully underwater

Bottom right: Otari Ute being craned out





Recent photos from Tom Belworthy.

Tom attended the Field Botany Course at Cass, supported by the Onslow Garden Club.

Top left; *Thelymitra hatchii* Arthurs Pass

Centre left: *Leucogenes grandiceps* Cragieburn Forest Park

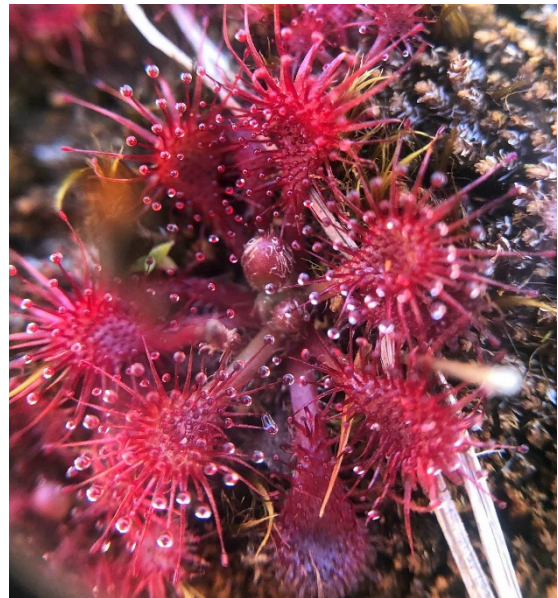
Bottom left: *Raoulia mammillaris* Cragieburn Forest Park

Top right: *Drosera spathulata* Arthurs Pass

Bottom right: *Lignocarpa carnosula* Cragieburn Forest Park



ŌTARI
WILTON'S BUSH TRUST





Patterns of Nature

Photos: Phil Parnell. All taken a week before the storm!

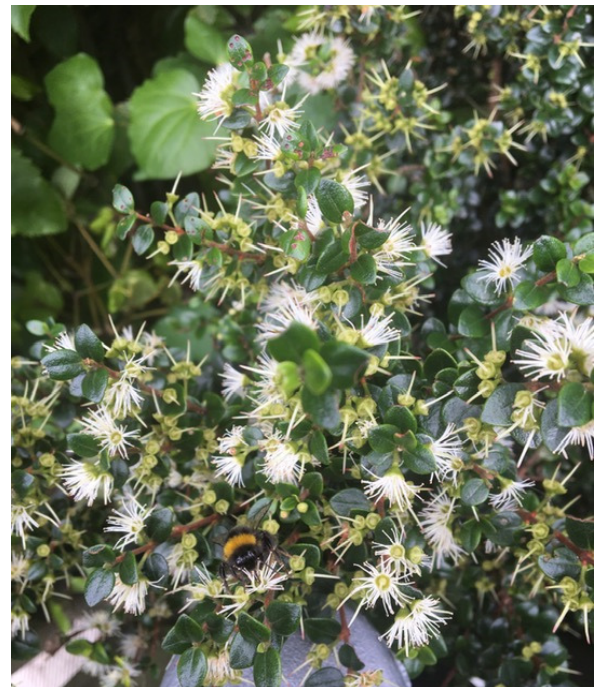
Below: *Metrosideros perforata*



Top left:
Pittosporum obcordatum

Centre left:
Whau, Entelea arborescens

Bottom left:
Ponga, Cyathea dealbata



Photos from Megan Ireland from the Botanical Society Summer Camp,

Rapurapu Kauri track

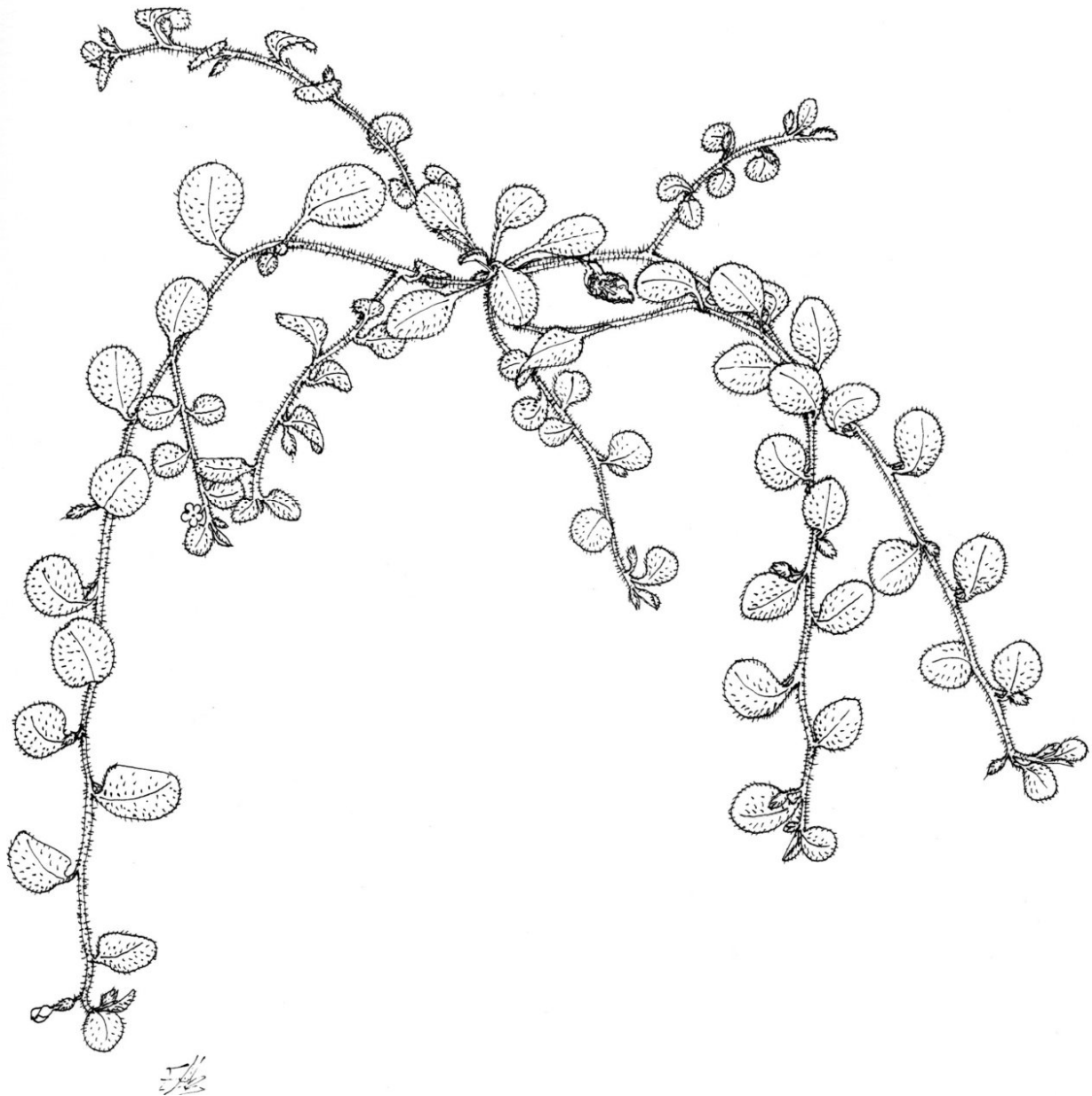
Top left: *Blechnum fraseri* (maukurangi)

Bottom left: forest scene with *B. fraseri*.

Top right : *Ixerba brexioides* (tāwari)

Bottom right: is from Te Aroha and a creak bursting with *Elatostema rugosa* (Parataniwha).





Myosotis spatulata

This is a small prostrate *Myosotis*, found in the North, South, and Chatham Islands. It is listed as at risk, naturally uncommon. It prefers rocky places under forest or shrubland, and occasionally turns up as an urban weed – it appeared in my garden for a while. Branches root as they go, so it can form a largish patch. Flowers are single and very small.

Membership Application/Donation form.

Please note there is also one on the website which can be completed and submitted electronically or downloaded and printed and sent by post or email.



OTARI
WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

Supporting Otari-Wilton's Bush Reserve



MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

YOUR DETAILS

NAME/S

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBERS

EMAIL ADDRESS

BILLING NAME & ADDRESS (if
different from Above

NEW MEMBER OR RENEW \$

INDIVIDUAL \$20 \$

DOUBLE/FAMILY \$30 \$

CORPORATE \$30 \$

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DONATE

\$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$

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I would like a receipt for my donation

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☐

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COMMENTS