

ŌTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views June, 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.
15 – 25 June	Matariki events Details p 7. This winter there are a number of events to celebrate Matariki – you can see them all online and book at www.wellingtongardens.nz/events
Tues 21 June Friday 8 July, 19 Aug. 6.30pm	Glow worm walks. See page 9 for details. Note these walks are at 6.30pm. 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'. Limited to 20 people. <i>Leader: Dave Burton</i>
Sunday 31 July 2pm	Growing New Zealand native plants in your garden. This is not a new idea and there are many excellent books available on the subject. The walk in Otari will aim to see some new examples and to see these plants thriving in Wellington conditions. This will include suggestions for hedging, dry gardens, ground cover, and shade. Duration 1.5 – 2 hours. Limited to 15 people. <i>Leader : Jane Humble</i>
Sunday 28 August 2pm	Animal Pests & Predators in Otari This 1 – 1.5 hour walk is a chance to learn about the 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 on some uneven terrain. Suitable footwear essential and a reasonable level of fitness. Suitable for family groups. Event limited to 15 people. <i>Leader: Jim Tait</i>

Message from the Chair

Kia ora koutou katoa

At our AGM on 2 June, we welcomed two new Trustees as three long-serving Trustees retired. Phil Parnell, Peter Buxton and Bev Abbott calculated that between them they had given around 40 years of service to the Trust as Trustees. We are all very grateful for the expertise and effort they have contributed to every facet of the Board's work and we wish them a happy and fulfilling retirement from their Board duties. Justin Nacey and Kathy Ombler, our new Trustees, will be familiar to many of you: Justin is one of our Hosts and Kathy has been part of the RAMBO team for many years. You will have seen from the bios of nominees sent out before the AGM that Justin and Kathy bring a lot of great skills to their Trustee roles. Already Justin has volunteered for the role of Hosts Coordinator thus relieving Peter and Jeannie Buxton who will have a handover phase of a few months.

Thanks to all of you who completed the members' survey recently. We have been fortunate this semester to have had the help of Ignite Consultants to run both a members' survey and a youth survey. A small team of student volunteers created the survey and have reported on the results. Almost 100 members responded who were mostly from the western suburbs or other Wellington City suburbs, most were retired, and the majority aged over 60. Respondents get a huge amount of enjoyment from walking in Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and some would like to see improvements to the tracks and signage, more labels on plants, more enticements for younger children to visit and more interpretation in the Visitor Centre. These points will be passed on to WCC. From the Trust, respondents would like more guided walks and talks. Overall, the distinction between the roles of the Trust and WCC is not clear so we will put some effort into improving the information around our different roles.

Some respondents indicated they were available to provide more in-depth responses to the Ignite team. Unfortunately, the team ran out of time to follow up and extends their apologies for this. However, we have those details and, as we work through the survey results, we may get in touch in future.

The Ignite team also set up an Instagram account for the Trust based on the findings from the youth survey that most of the respondents didn't know about Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and their preferred social media platform is Instagram. If you are an Instagram user, please add the Trust's account, [otariwiltonbushtrust](https://www.instagram.com/otariwiltonbushtrust), and post to it to encourage visitors to Ōtari. The account is at Otariwbt@yahoo.co.nz and the password is Igniteotari : the more followers we have, the more people will know about and value Ōtari-Wilton's Bush.

Matariki is almost here and this year there will be several events at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush. Please see the notice elsewhere in this newsletter if you'd like to participate.

Thank you for your support of the Trust and Ōtari-Wilton's Bush. I hope you're enjoying the kohekohe flowering this year!

Carol West

Chair



Ōtari Update

For this year's AGM I have been reflecting on my first full year as manager at Ōtari. It has been a year of significant changes and challenges, which may not all be visible to the public and Trust members.

The most significant behind-the-scenes achievement has been the expansion of the Lions Ōtari Plant Conservation Laboratory from the Portacom into a space which was formerly a two bedroom flat adjacent to the Leonard Cockayne Centre in the old Curator's House. We are very grateful for the generous donations and funding we have received to make this expansion possible. Our heartfelt thanks to the Mr and Mrs George Denton Trust, Te Tahua Taiao Nga Taonga (Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund), Darea Sherratt and Deane Endowment Trust. The Denton and Lotteries funding has enabled us to embark on a project to conserve five of the Wellington Region's most threatened native orchids. Karin van der Walt's leadership of this project has been keenly focused and exemplary. We have been able to hire Jennifer Alderton-Moss as a part time research assistant to work on this project. The Portacom is now being used as office space for Karin and Eleanor Burton, who is in the process of moving our extensive library to the Portacom.

Just before Christmas we completed the refresh of the Ōtari Visitor Centre and as a part of the project this space has been given a new name – Tāne Whakapiripiri. Tāne is well known as the god of the forest, but he has many different names and this one refers to Tāne who draws people together and provides shelter. The project was delivered by Story Inc, and the lead writer was Cassandra Barnett who lives nearby. The space is much lighter and brighter, also has a digital display which can be revised and updated more easily. We are working with a local artist who is designing some additional panels for Tāne Whakapiripiri so please keep an eye out for their arrival.

There have been some significant changes in the team this year. Megan Ireland was promoted to Team Leader and has been doing a fantastic job. We were fortunate to recruit Tom Belworthy as a Gardener, who came to us from the City Horticulture team where he worked since completing his Horticultural Apprenticeship. We have had some great apprentices with us in the last year: Cheyney Biddlecombe (who recently won Apprentice of the Year and now works at Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā), Callum Skene (who we were lucky to have for an extended time) and Novelyn Paus (who we have had most recently and has loved her time here, especially in our Nursery). Nate Rigler was working for us one or two days a week for much of the year and following the completion of his PhD, he is now seeking full time employment when he returns from travel home to the US. David Bidgood remains Ōtari's longest serving staff member, he was recently recognised with the Ratonga ki te Ahumarā (Services to Horticulture) Award. Peter Griffen continues his part-time work maintaining the lawns and paths, and we frequently get comments from visitors about his friendly and approachable manner.

This last year we have been challenged by the weather, both the extended warm summer dry period and the intense storm events which have impacted our work significantly. Last winter the Northern Carpark turned into a 1.5m deep lake, in January there was a slip on the upper Yellow trail in a particularly bluffy section, and in February we had a locally intense mini-burst of rain that caused a slip near Wilton Road that has taken out our service entrance. We are waiting for Wellington Water to identify the cause of the slip so our engineers can design and repair the Service Entrance.

Work is progressing well on a new route to Moko the rimu which we believe will make Moko and the forest west of the Kaiwharawhara Stream more accessible to visitors as it is much less steep with far fewer steps than the current route.

COVID has impacted our level of service and the team and volunteers have been working hard to ensure it is not a significant impact. Lockdowns, isolation precautions and other public health measures have challenged us in a number of ways but we are very fortunate that Aotearoa NZ has





been able to limit the effects of the pandemic. This year the amount of time volunteers have been able to come and work alongside us in the gardens has reduced, and we are looking forward to having volunteers here on a more regular basis. Hosting has also been impacted this year by COVID and temporary relocation during the refresh of the Visitor Centre. The revegetation group have made a massive difference to the area adjacent to the Ian Galloway Park Entrance (below Rugby Club), they have removed huge areas of weeds and have been diligently planting out this difficult spot. The RAMBO trappers continue to keep rats, hedgehogs, stoats, and weasels numbers down to very low levels. The results are showing up in the native bird populations. There are at least ten known kaka nests throughout the forest, some of them producing multiple clutches each summer. We see kākāriki (parakeets), kārearea (falcon) and korimako (bellbirds) most days.

We have also been fortunate to be able to support the Trust with their significant project to write the history of Ōtari as we approach our centenary. The project has involved most staff and volunteers and we are looking forward to seeing it in print later in the year.

My team is looking forward to the coming year with a number of significant projects planned to keep us all busy and make Ōtari even better.

Ma te wa,

Tim Park

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

Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust Trust Board Report 2021–2022

This is the 22nd annual report of the Trust and includes comments on the ongoing challenges we have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges we managed to engage with interested councillors, informing them of the big contribution that Ōtari makes to native plant conservation, and we carried on with many of our activities by adapting our approach and increasing our use of technology. However, hosting has been intermittent as we have responded to the response levels determined by Government and the August Board meeting was cancelled because of the lockdown in Wellington. Other significant events included the naming ceremony for Moko the giant rimu, the opening of the long-awaited revamp of the Visitor Centre, now named Tāne Whakapiripiri, and the expansion of the Lions Ōtari Plant Conservation Laboratory into the back of the Leonard Cockayne Centre. The support of members, monthly walk leaders, seminar speakers and Ōtari gardens staff through these turbulent times has been greatly appreciated. The Board's activities have included:

1. Supporting Bee Dawson to write a history of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and Chris Coad to take photographs for the book.
2. Implementing a strategy to guide our activities.
3. Representing members' interests in the WCC annual plan process.
4. Making submissions to local and central government agencies on matters impacting Ōtari - Wilton's Bush.



5. Meeting with Councillors and Council staff to advocate for improvements at Ōtari and discuss matters of common interest.
6. Attending the opening of Tāne Whakapiripiri/ Ōtari Visitor Centre and the naming ceremony for Moko the ancient rimu where a plaque acknowledging Robert Fantl's contribution to protecting Ōtari's forest was unveiled.
7. Contributing volunteers to support Matariki events and Open Day organised by Ōtari staff.
8. Continuing trapping and pest eradication around Ōtari and environs including adding a new trapping line along the lower Blue Trail and in the north end of Izard Park.
9. Arranging provision of hosts at weekends at the Visitor Centre.
10. A range of volunteer services to assist with nursery and garden maintenance and lab research.
11. Supervision of revegetation maintenance and planting on a monthly basis.
12. Planning and managing the monthly walks programme.
13. Organising guiding teams for tours from a small number of local groups.
14. Delivering the series of seminars on Tuesday evenings in March.
15. Maintaining the website and Facebook page for the Trust.

Planning

The Board has been implementing the strategy developed in the previous year and participated in a workshop on partnerships that Tim Foote facilitated. We are grateful to Tim for his ongoing interest in the Trust and support of the Trustees' capabilities.

Communications

Website and Facebook

Some further minor updates have been made for new Trustees and staff contact details. Facebook updates have been made but as in 2020–21 many events couldn't be held. Wellington gardens have also started promoting Ōtari events using Eventfinda, a popular online ticketing service. Our web hosting provider was taken over and we have transferred to the new owner.

Newsletter

Once again, we thank Vera Burton for her tireless efforts in editing Ōtari -Wilton's Bush News and Views as well as all those who submit articles. Thanks too, to Eleanor Burton for the plant drawings in every issue and to Jane Humble for newsletter despatch.

Project RAMBO

The energetic and busy RAMBO team is ably led by Jim Tait. Jim's full report of the successful rat and mustelid trapping and detection programme is attached to this report.

Hosting

Hosting has been paused several times over the past year, in line with alert levels at the time and, once Omicron was in the community, to protect our hosts from visitors who might be carrying the virus unawares. Jeannie and Peter Buxton are thanked for their careful management of the team and the roster. The refurbished Visitor Centre has presented a few teething issues but these are being worked through – it is a much nicer environment to be in.

Guiding

There have been no cruise ship tours this year due to COVID-19. A small number of garden tours have been provided for local garden groups and others.

Revegetation

The revegetation group continued to meet during the year on the second Saturday of the month with one session moved to the first Saturday of the month to cater for absences. The work concentrated



on controlling garden escape plants like tradescantia, and a new one, bear's breeches/acanthus. Volunteers planted up the closed steep path up to the top of the former tip face at the request of the Council and around 140 trees were planted elsewhere on cleared areas below the Rugby Club.

The Council has supplied a weed bag where tradescantia can rot down rather than carrying it back to the depot under the Visitor Centre. We thank the Council for supplying the trees and weed bag and for the cooperation we enjoy with Council staff.

Monthly walks

We are grateful to Ian Stockwell for continuing to support these walks during 2021 until Kevin O'Connor assumed responsibility in 2022. A couple of walks were cancelled due to COVID-19 in 2021 and numbers for walks were capped at 10 or less to reduce the risk to leaders, tail-enders and attendees.

March seminars

All seminars were able to proceed through dual format presentation: in-person attendance or remote attendance via Zoom. Attendance numbers were good. We are grateful to all of our speakers for interesting presentations, particularly Susette Goldsmith who finally was able to present her talk, having been a casualty of COVID cancellations in 2020 and 2021.

Membership

A special welcome to all new members this year. We appreciate that virtually all members can be contacted electronically, which is very helpful for keeping our operating costs down.

Finances

Our income stream continues to be low and is now mainly from memberships. The full performance report is attached was distributed to all members with the AGM package. We thank Tim Mason for his capable management of the Trust's finances and his sage advice to the Board.

Succession planning

The Board is implementing a new procedural rule where the term of Trustees from the date of first election is limited to three years, with a further term of three years if so desired. There are a number of long-serving Trustees so we are staggering their retirement to optimise business continuity. To that end, Bev Abbott, Peter Buxton and Phil Parnell are all stepping down this year. We thank them all very much for the expertise, energy and commitment to Ōtari they have brought to their roles. We wish them all the best and look forward to their continued engagement as volunteers. This means we are seeking new Trustees and encourage anyone who is interested to seek nomination. Please contact any of the Trustees for insights into what may be involved.

Conclusion

In presenting this report on behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to acknowledge and thank fellow Trustees, the Ōtari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve staff, WCC managers, Trust volunteers and members for their support during this year in all activities of the Trust. Grateful thanks are extended to non-members who support the Trust's activities by giving talks and leading walks.

Carol West
Chair

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

Maggie Bayfield 67 Weld Street, Wadestown bayfield@xtra.co.nz Ph: 027 545 4333

Jane Humble 16 Iazard Road, Khandallah jhumble16@gmail.com Ph: 021 636 226

Justin Nacey 100 Curtis Street, Northland justinnacey@gmail.com Ph: 021 211 3019

Kevin O'Connor 48 Ngatoto Street, Khandallah oconnorkevin170@gmail.com Ph: 027 270 9787

Kathy Ombler 9 Rutland Way, Wadestown. kathy@ombler.co.nz Ph: 027 275 515

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

Upcoming Matariki events 15-21 June

This winter there are a number of events to celebrate Matariki – you can see them all online and book at www.wellingtongardens.nz/events

Matariki Ōtari Rongoā korero - Traditional Māori healing – Wednesday 15 June 6:30pm - Leonard Cockayne Centre

Modern Matariki Hāngī with Joe McLeod - Friday 17 June - 12-2pm – Begonia House

Maramataka korero with Pauline Harris – Monday 20 June – 6:30pm - Tāne Whakapiriripiri - Ōtari Visitor Centre

Ōtari titiwai hikoi - Glow worm walk – Tuesday 21 June – 6:30pm - Tāne Whakapiriripiri - Ōtari Visitor Centre

Ōtari pepeke and ika hikoi – Wed 22 June – 6:30pm - Tāne Whakapiriripiri - Ōtari Visitor Centre

Important Update

Please do not leave valuables in your cars 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 in Wadestown and Wilton recently.

From the Treasurer

Thanks to those many members who have paid their membership subscriptions for the 2022/23 year so promptly, and to those who have contributed by way of donations as well. It is all appreciated.

Could we remind those who have not yet paid to do so soon, to save us hassling you with reminder notices? Those memberships not renewed for two successive years by 30 June 2022 will be cancelled. If you have any queries please contact me directly.

Tim Mason, timmason429@gmail.com or phone 04 479 0544

Fungal Foray

The second Fungal Walk of the season was held at Ōtari on Sunday 29th of May 2022.

Although it has been a rather dry season for fungi, it was a mild day and once again Geoff Ridley kept a group of enthusiasts entranced by the mysterious world of mycology.

This was Geoff's 16th year taking this Fungal Walk at Ōtari!

For full details see Geoff's excellent blog: Spores, moulds and fungi.

1. Brown bird's nest, *Crucibulum leave*
2. Common basket stinkhorn (also Ian Godley and Geoff Ridley!), *Ileodictyon ciborium*



3. Ruby helmets *Cruentomyces viscidocruenta*

Glow Worm Walks at Otari

Tuesday 21 June 6.30pm.

Friday 8 July 6.30pm.

Friday 19 August 6.30pm.

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. Walk is 1 hour and 10 minutes. Meet at the Information Centre. Each walk limited to 20 people. Free to Trust members and their families *except for Monday 5 July - Matariki walk, adults \$6, children under 15 free.*

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

Leader: Dave Burton



Help needed with Glow Worm Walks

Did you know that glow worms spin silk?

Did you know that only NZ and Australia have glow worms? (and the Aussie one is pathetic!)

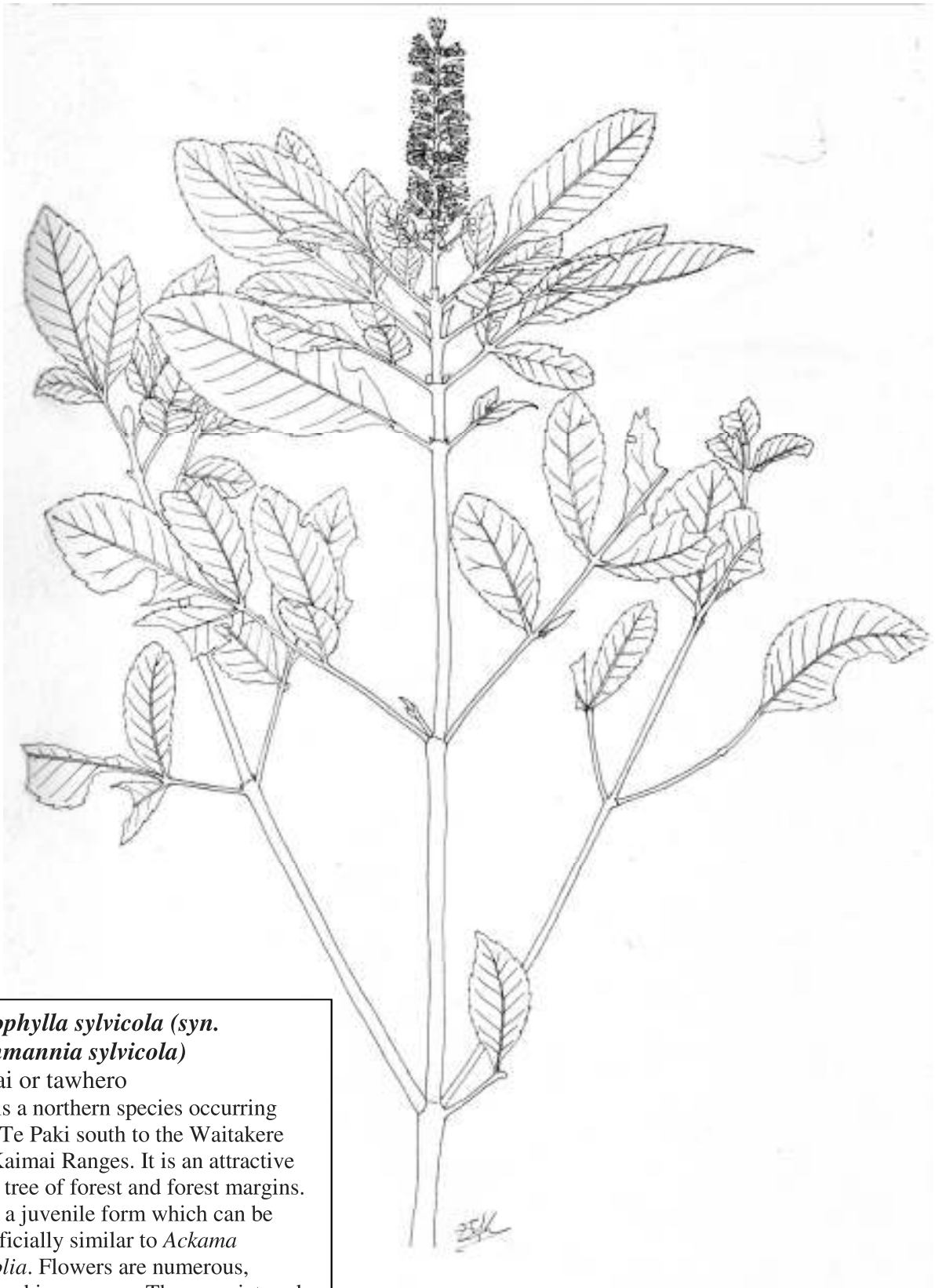
Just a couple of lesser known facts from the glow worm walk guides. Otari runs several glow worm walks during the year, generally on Friday nights, starting about 6.30. (This makes it early enough for children to attend.) Numbers are limited to 20, so the group is always manageable with 2 guides, and the tour covers some of New Zealand's biological history as well as the glow worms. Grateful thanks to Dave Burton and Ron Fountain, who have been running these walks for a long time. It is now time to increase our very small group of guides, so Dave has produced an information sheet to help. If this sounds like something you might enjoy, please contact Dave at veeanddave93@gmail.com. Or phone 04 938 8207



The team has planted and stone-mulched the Wellington Coastal Garden. Most new plants were collected last year.

It is looking great!

Tim Park



***Pterophylla sylvicola* (syn. *Weinmannia sylvicola*)**

Towai or tawhero

This is a northern species occurring from Te Pahi south to the Waitakere and Kaimai Ranges. It is an attractive small tree of forest and forest margins. It has a juvenile form which can be superficially similar to *Ackama rosifolia*. Flowers are numerous, arranged in racemes. The one pictured was somewhat out of season, it usually flowers in late summer. It is easy to grow in cultivation, but will take up a bit of room in a garden.

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.



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 \$

NEW MEMBER

DONATE

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

I would like a receipt for my donation

P

Paid electronically to account 030518 0205713 000 (please mark your NAME and MEMBERSHIP and/or DONATION in the fields

COMMENTS