

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## News and Views September, 2014

Web site: [www.otariwiltonsbush.org.nz](http://www.otariwiltonsbush.org.nz). For all walks meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane unless otherwise stated. Unless otherwise stated walks are free to Trust members, otherwise \$3. For information re walks and seminars contact the Treehouse on (04) 499 1400

<b>The first Saturday of each month. 9am</b>	<b>Plant care</b> is usually on the first Saturday of each month. Contact Wilbur Dovey, 4991044.
<b>Thursday 11 September</b>	<b>Keep NZ Beautiful Cleanup</b> See page 5 for details.
<b>Saturday 20 September</b>	<b>OTARI OPEN DAY</b> See page 6 for details
<b>Sunday 28 September 6.30pm</b>	<b>Plant propagation.</b> Join our curator to find out how we propagate New Zealand plants. This one-hour seminar starts at the Information Centre and includes a look at Otari's nursery. Cost \$3 <i>Leader: Rewi Elliot</i>
<b>Sunday 26 October 2pm</b>	An accompanied walk from the Otari Wilton's Bush visitor centre alongside the stream to the Karori Cemetery, up to the skyline, and return via the Flax Clearing. Various items of interest will be pointed out along the way. This includes the tombstone of Harry McNish and his cat (of Shackleton's Antarctic voyage). This relaxed walk is 6km long and will take up to 3 hours so a moderate level of fitness would be desirable. <i>Leaders: Chris Moore</i>
<b>Sunday 23 November 2pm</b>	<b>Mosses, liverworts and lichens</b> - Come on the Nature Walk to see some of the smaller plants that thrive in Otari. Learn why they were called cryptogams, are called non-vascular plants and be introduced to a few of them by name. Bring a hand lens if you have one – otherwise we have a few for you to use. There will be steps so good shoes required. <i>Leader: Rodney Lewington</i>

## Chairman's Message

The year is moving on and plenty is happening at Otari-Wilton's Bush. The spring growth is starting to appear and that means Open Day is almost upon us. This year 2014 marks a milestone in our history with the curator's cottage being renovated and re-opened as part of the garden facilities.

The Trust has worked hard to get this back on the Council annual plan and has contributed to some of the fit-out of the research and education parts of the Leonard Cockayne Centre. There will be an official opening before the annual plant sale starts and it would be great to see you there and you can view the Centre.

We have also been consulted and submitted comments on the Combined Botanic Gardens management plan that Otari will have a section in rather than a separate plan for each garden as there are some common principles to all.

The gardens and tracks have been getting good use during recent months with more locals and visitors finding the hidden gem that is Otari-Wilton's Bush. Rewi and his team have been keeping the collections at a high standard and it will be looking great for the spring and summer seasons.

Thank to all our hosts and guides and volunteers who have helped keep the Trust activities running over the last few months.

I look forward to seeing you on Open Day to enjoy the plant sale and all the other activities.

Phil Parnell

Chair Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust



House as at July and August. August (right) shows concrete now poured and stone wall facings in progress on the block walls. *Photos: Phil Parnell*

## Otari Report

Kia ora koutou,



Winter's nearly over and with the extra daylight I can see my feet in front of me now as I arrive at work in the morning. It's very nice to be able to see kakariki and korimako outside my window almost every morning now.

Work on the new Leonard Cockayne Centre is progressing very well despite the weather putting a dampener on the works over the past month. We hope to start planting around the house from next week and have it looking top notch for the official opening on Otari Open Day, Saturday 20 September. Plantings around the house will be a mixture of cultivars and species the staff think are perfect for Wellington home gardens. This helps meet one of Dr Cockayne's original schemes for the gardens – *'the use of indigenous plants for horticultural purposes shall be illustrated in various ways for the information of those desirous of using such plants in their gardens'*.

We have just finished hosting a student placement from Victoria University. Kate McKenzie-Pollack investigated some family based activities for families visiting Otari. Among her ideas was a neat booklet designed for kids to complete here - watch this space.

Finn, one of the curators here, enjoyed a very successful trip to Hawaii in June and caught up with folks from the National Tropical Botanic Garden who visited us in January (see my report in the February newsletter). He particularly enjoyed visiting the Limahuli gardens which shares parallels with Otari and seeing *Argyroxiphium sandwicense* on top of a volcano. A very neat landscape and plant species, well worth a google, I've added a picture of Finn below with a beauty.

We've also visited a couple of sites around the lower North Island to collect plants for DOC. We intend to grow these in our nursery and hope to return some to the wild. Staff visited Whanganui and Mangaweka (not quite as exotic as Hawaii) to collect *Pimelea actea* and *Celmisia* 'Mangaweka' respectively (see article in this issue).

Finally, many thanks to the Trust board for their excellent submission on the Botanic Gardens of Wellington draft management plan. The written and verbal submissions were well received by Councillors and have helped shape the plan to good effect. While ostensibly similar to the previous plan there is an increased emphasis on partnerships to achieve our objectives, a more focused look at both our education and conservation roles is evident, and how we will manage the forest using wider Council resource receives attention. I'm looking forward to the new plan becoming operative in early September.

Kind regards,

Rewi Elliot  
Curator/Manager  
Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve  
Email: [rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz)





Photos from Finn Michalak.

*Below right: with  
Argyroxiphium sandwicense*

*Left: Limahuli gardens*



More progress on the house. Photos from *Rewi Elliot*





## Trust Board 2014 - 2015

Chairman Phil Parnell	93 Amritsar St, Khandallah.	landy@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 479 2239
Secretary: Margaret Crimp:	167 Wilton Rd., Wilton.	m.crimp@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 475 326 3
Treasurer. Jocelyn Hoskin	14 Warwick St, Wilton.	jocelynhoskin@clear.net.nz	Phone: 475 8696
Peter Buxton	106 Weld St, Wadestown.	pebuxton@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 472 3456
Wilbur Dovey	40 Warwick St., Wilton.	cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 499 1044
Jannine McCabe	40 Worcester Street, Wilton.	jannine_mccabe@yahoo.co.nz	Phone 475 5494
Cathy Wylie	43 Huntleigh Park Way, Ngaio.	Cathy.wylie@vuw.ac.nz	Phone: 938 6498

The trustees welcome individual communications from members on any matters relating to Otari-Wilton's Bush Reserve or the Trust, particularly from those who would like to assist and participate in our activities.

*Newsletter: Vera Burton. Phone 9388207. davee@paradise.net.nz*

## Keep NZ Beautiful Cleanup

We are again joining in the annual Cleanup of NZ. On Thursday, September 11 we are going to clean up the boundaries and tracks. (In the summer when the water might be warmer and the water level lower we will clean up the stream.)

This project will leave Otari looking pristine for Open Day.

Meet on the deck at the Information Centre at 8.30am for a brief health and safety talk. Bags and gloves will be provided.

We look forward to seeing a number of enthusiastic volunteers.

## Heritage fruit Trees

We are looking to propagate a number of heritage fruit trees to create a community heritage fruit tree programme in and around Wellington. If you have or know of a tree with some history which would be good to include in this, please contact Sarah Adams at WCC by phone on 04 8038361 or 0212278361, alternatively email Sarah at Sarah.Adams@wcc.govt.nz.

# HELP!

## Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day

**Saturday 20 September**

We need your help in different ways:

- We need help to man the refreshment table and the barbecue.
- We also ask you to help by providing cakes, muffins, loaves, biscuits etc to sell.

The Cake stall/ refreshment stand and barbecue are our great fundraisers but they can only be successful with your help.

Contributions can be left in the meeting room of the Information Centre on Friday afternoon, 13 September, or delivered to the cake stall on Saturday morning.

For any questions or to volunteer please contact Jocelyn Hoskin, 475 8696, [jocelynhoskin@clear.net.nz](mailto:jocelynhoskin@clear.net.nz) or Margaret Crimp 475 3263 [m.crimp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.crimp@xtra.co.nz)



## Open Day: Programme of events

**9.30am Cockayne Centre official opening**

**10am Native plants for sale on the Cockayne Lawn**

**11am Plants that can poison, maim and kill**

Join our Otari guides to hear some of the more macabre stories about New Zealand native plants. 1 hour

**1pm Bush walk to 800-year-old rimu and beyond**

Visit the oldest tree in Wellington City. Some steps, steep in places. Wear good footwear. 1-2hours

**2pm The nature trail**

A fantastic guided walk through the Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve. Some steps, steep in places. Wear good footwear. 1 hour

**All guided walks are free and start at the Information Centre.**

**There will be stalls and displays from community groups.**

**Refreshments available all day.**



## Fisheye View of Otari

Here is a new view of Otari from the Cockayne lookout, taken by Phil Parnell on 4 June.



## Otari and NCEA

Otari has recently been involved in helping with the year 13 syllabus for NCEA, taking tours round the garden.



On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 21 students from Heretaunga College visited Otari.

The tour for the year 13 Biology students covered their NCEA syllabus on evolution and speciation while Rewi and Finn talked to the Level Two Horticulture students about propagation and landscaping. They then continued their tour of the bush to learn about plant recognition and the history of Otari Wilton's bush. Dramatic thunderclaps signaled the end of the visit and most of us reached shelter before the hail came down.



## On the Brink.

### *Celmisia* “Mangaweka”

Imagine if you will ... DOC Head Office, Manners Street, several worried looking people in a meeting room deep in discussion. We hear phrases “extremely vulnerable”, “cliff is slipping away”, “single remaining plant”, “verge of extinction!” “What do we do?!”



the opposite side of the valley.

Our target on this expedition was an extremely vulnerable clump left growing precariously on the edge of a recent slip of the mud stone cliff. We managed without too much fuss to get the clump down to road level (see photo) and then down to Wellington where it was divided and potted up giving us twelve propagules! The intention now is for us to grow on and divide again to increase the numbers with some possibly being returned. Seed collected and grown could be another means to boost the numbers. Rewi is keen to have information on the steps we take growing threatened species ex-situ, success and failures, available online to assist others doing species restoration work.

Another interesting aside in a tale of interesting asides, our very own Mary McEwen (volunteer extraordinaire) has a role in this story. Mary collected and pressed *Celmisia* “Mangaweka” for her herbarium specimens in the 1960’s for the botany degree she was doing. This much later was found to be the first recorded collection!

David Bidgood  
Collection Curator, Otari-Wilton’s Bush



“I hear the Otari team are making a name for themselves around threatened plants” “Okay, let’s give them a call”  
So it was on a cold July morning team Otari went forth on a mission to rescue the last largest known *Celmisia* “Mangaweka” and bring it back to H.Q.

Myself, Ali, and Finn with Graeme LaCock from DOC head office met up with Alison Dory a local resident, historian and recently retired DOC Ranger. Alison has done a lot of work with the *Celmisia* and was our guide, showing us the seven remaining planted specimens. Interestingly these are growing in open forest on





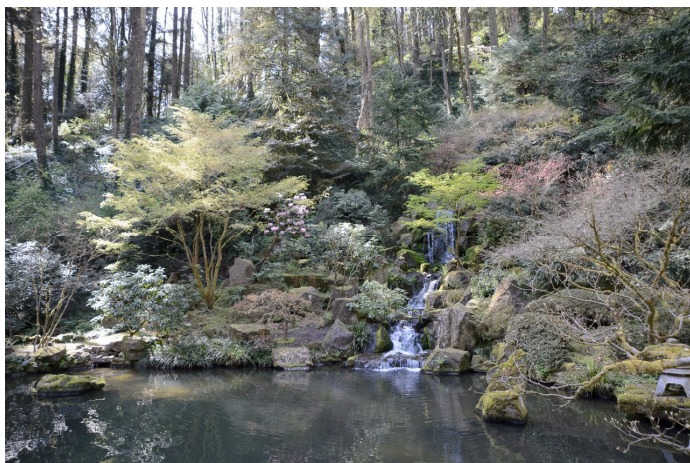
# Portland Japanese Garden in Oregon

Rated amongst the top 10 gardens to visit in USA (by USA today news)  
we were lucky enough to be in Portland and went to Washington Park  
to see this garden.



Built in 1967 on 5.5 acres of land leased from the city by the Japanese Garden Society of Oregon and situated on a hill side near other sights to the West of the City. They commissioned Professor Takuma Tono a recognized authority on Japanese landscape architecture and he came up with the five gardens concept seen today.

These are the Strolling Pond garden, the Tea Garden, the Sand and Stone garden, the Flat Garden, and the Natural Garden all surrounded by the tall wooded forest of Washington Park. Our guide explained each is set up to carefully guide the views of the visitor en route to various important aspects of the garden including the magnificent Tea House. It was a very different experience being very peaceful, great use of water (although freezing ice is not good for carp they learnt!) and places to enjoy the views along the way. Japanese gardens are designed to use all the senses sight, sound, smell etc not just your brain! If you are ever in Oregon make sure you see this garden and the International Rose test garden down the same hill both close to Portland City in Oregon.  
*Phil Parnell.*





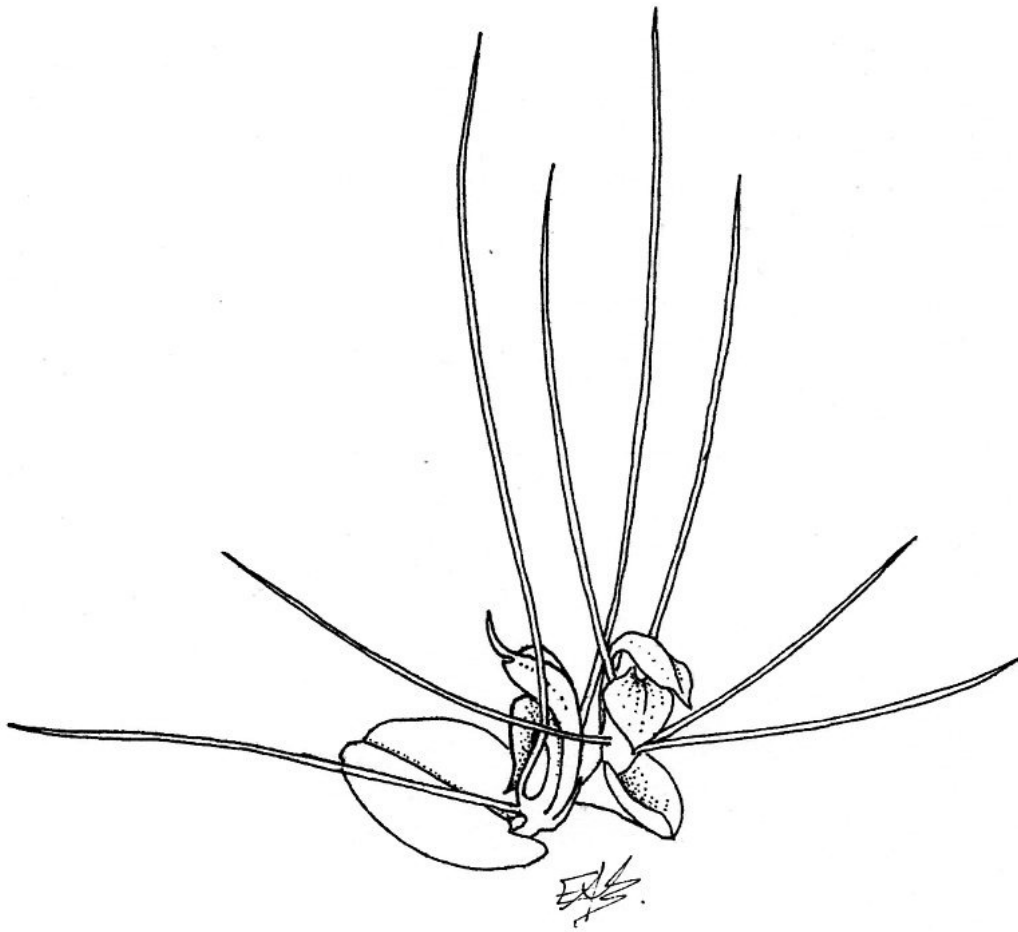
## Other Botanical Gardens

We seem to be on a on a theme of Botanic Gardens around the world.  
Here are another couple from Margaret Crimp.

The first was taken in  
the National Botanic Garden of Ireland - in Dublin. The second is in the  
Copenhagen Botanic Garden - glasshouses







***Nematoceras 'Waiouru'***

**Spider orchid**

This spider orchid has a tag name, which means it looks a bit different from the known species but no-one has got around to describing it properly, or indeed determining whether it is sufficiently different. As this taxon has not been described there is not much information about it. They are called spider orchids because of their appearance. They are pollinated by small flies which often get stuck in the flower, and so are frequented by spiders: "In some flowers insects were thus found still alive, in others they were dead, while in many others only portions of them, such as legs, wings, etc., were left, the spiders having devoured the rest." - G. M. Thomson, 1878.

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

(Supporting Otari-Wilton's Bush Reserve)

## Membership Application Form

We are delighted to welcome new members - whatever your interest in Otari-Wilton's Bush - from a desire to participate in active friendly volunteer support and educational activities, or just the satisfaction of being associated with this wonderful native plant reserve. Our membership year is from 1 April to 31 March. New members joining after 1 January will have the membership accredited to the following year.

**Yes, I would like to join/renew my membership of the Trust.**

Name (s): .....

Postal address: .....

.....

.....

Telephone contact number/: ( ).....

E-mail address:

Billing Name and Address: .....

(if different from above) .....

<b>Subscription</b>	Corporate	\$30	\$
	Double/Family	\$15	\$
	Individual	\$10	\$
	Student/Unwaged	\$5	\$
<b>Donation*</b>			\$
<b>Total payment</b>	(please enclose cheque**)		\$

\*The Trust is registered as a Charitable organisation and donations over \$5.00 qualify for a tax rebate to individual taxpayers. (annual limits apply) We will provide a donation receipt to support your tax rebate claim

\*\*We regret we cannot process payments by Credit Card.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please indicate the areas of interest to you from the following list:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work parties        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting at the Information centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration      | <input type="checkbox"/> Guiding                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Research |  |

**Please send this completed form with your cheque to:**

**The Treasurer, Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, 160 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington 6012**

**Or pay by internet banking:**

**Westpac Bank 030518: 0205713:00 :50. Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust. Please add your name for a reference.**