

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## News and Views June, 2005

Check the web site to keep up-to-date with events: [www.owb.co.nz](http://www.owb.co.nz)

For all walks meet at the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane

For information re walks and seminars contact the Treehouse on (04) 499 1400

Saturdays, June 4, 9am-11am. (All Saturdays in June & July	<b>Planting restarts in the Kaiwharawhara Valley Revegetation site</b> <i>Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett, ph 472 5891</i>
Sunday, June 26, 2pm	<b>Explore the Nature Trail through Job Wilton's original forest reserve.</b> <i>Leader: Dr. John Dawson</i>
Sunday, July 24, 2pm	<b>A gentle walk from the northern rata in the Wild Garden to the Lookout with many interesting forest and mountain plants along the way</b> <i>Leader; Dr. John Dawson</i>
Sunday, 28 August, 2pm.	<b>The Nature Trail, our best walk for seeing the diversity of the original, centuries old, forest.</b> <i>Leader: Margaret Crimp</i>
October 3-8	<b>Native Week</b>
Saturday, October 8	<b>Open Day</b>
Sunday, October 16, 2pm	<b>Get to know the native forest plants. An identification workshop followed by a walk around the deck and along the tree top walkway. (Note this is the third Sunday of the month).</b> <i>Leader: Dr John Dawson</i>
Saturday, November 27, 2pm	<b>From the Wild Garden down to the Waterfall, where we will see many interesting plants, then up to the Bowling Club to get a view of the Wilton Homestead.</b> <i>Leader: Dr John Dawson</i>
Sunday, December 18, 2pm	<b>A trek to Cockayne's Kauri Forest then down to the Bledisloe Gorge and the many pukateas and gully tree ferns at the head of the valley. (Note this is the third Sunday of the month),</b> <i>Leader: Dr. John Dawson</i>

# Trust Board 2005-2006

At the Trust Annual General Meeting held on 10 May, 2005, the following candidates nominated for the Board of Trustees were declared duly selected for the current year, there being no further nominations. Following this meeting the board elected the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, to hold these positions until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees for the current year is:-

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| • Chairman Athol Swann<br>athol.swann@paradise.net.nz      | Phone: 472 8417              |
| • Deputy Chair Jock Fleming<br>jockfleming@paradise.net.nz | Phone: 475 7396              |
| • Secretary: Margaret Crimp<br>m.crimp@xtra.co.nz          | Phone: 475 3263              |
| • Treasurer: Johanne McComish<br>mccomish@paradise.net.nz  | Phone: 476 2925, 027 2278357 |
| • Alastair Bisley<br>alastair.bisley@paradise.net.nz       | Phone: 475 3014`             |
| • Peter Buxton<br>jbuxton@paradise.net.nz                  | Phone: 472 3456              |
| • John Dawson<br>john.dawson@xtra.co.nz                    | Phone: 479 7369              |
| • Wilbur Dovey<br>cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz                   | Phone: 499 1044              |
| • Maggy Wassilieff<br>zl2afp@internet.co.nz                | Phone: 383 6100              |

## Contact the Trust Board

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.

## Contact for Trust members.

We do have some email addresses but we are trying to establish a data-base whereby we can contact you quickly and also inexpensively. If you wish to be on this database could you please email Margaret Crimp – [m.crimp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.crimp@xtra.co.nz) with your email address. Could you also please tell us whether you would be happy to receive your newsletter online.

**A new home on the web** for Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust. Visit us at [www.OtariWiltonsBush.org.nz](http://www.OtariWiltonsBush.org.nz)

## **Restoration Day -- the annual event**

**-- at Queen Elizabeth Park on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>. 2005**

On this occasion the organisers were Nigel Clarke and Paula Loader from the GWRC, and once again they provided a sumptuous stand-up lunch. The New Zealand Ecological Restoration Network, and DoC, supported the event. It was a meeting of all interested members of Wellington's conservation and ecological restoration groups.

Otari Trust members took up a display panel, which illustrated our 'revegetation project'.

There were talks, displays, a bookstall, brochures and for each person, two workshop sessions and two field trips all geared to 'coastal restoration'. It was stimulating for volunteers to hear the experience and eagerness from those who chaired workshops and marshalled field trips. There was unanimous appreciation for organising such an intricate programme. Nobody missed out.

*Jock Fleming.*

## **We Will Miss You Robyn**

Recently we were surprised and saddened to hear that Robyn Smith, Otari-Wilton's Bush curator, was leaving us.

I first met Robyn when she was in charge of Percy Reserve in Lower Hutt where there are many native plants both in cultivation and growing in regenerating forest. Here a special project for her was cataloguing and caring for a collection of plants in pots amassed over many years by Tony Druce. After the Percy Reserve she was for a while at the Wellington Zoo where she established more natural plant settings for the animals. Then, a few years ago she came to Otari.

At Otari Robyn was notable for her enthusiasm, energy and unfailing cheerfulness. She was strongly supported by her staff and much was achieved both in maintaining, improving and extending planted areas and in coping with the damage wrought from time to time by storms and floods.

Robyn will be working at Otari part time to curate the Tony Druce collection, transferred from Percy Reserve, and the equally extensive collection of Arnold Dench and his wife, built up in their Newlands garden over many years.

We look forward to seeing Robyn often at Otari- Wilton's Bush.

## Otari-Wilton's Bush News JUNE 2005

Good news at Otari this week with the removal of the pines from the new land. As I write they lie on Troup picnic area waiting to be flown out tomorrow morning. Their removal has made a huge difference to the site opening it right up and considerably less intimidating. We will begin design work in June for the completion of the circular walk and upgrading of the Troup Picnic area.

There has been a slight hold up with the propagation house construction which has meant we have had to temporarily relocate some propagated plant material to the Botanic Garden nursery in the meantime. However the important thing is that it is underway and will be finished soon. This new facility will greatly enhance the ability of the staff to propagate plant material not only for the collections at Otari but also enhance the ability of Otari to effectively contribute to external conservation programmes in a more effective way as identified in the Otari Promotional Strategy.

We are shortly to begin the removal of the poles from the meeting room and installation of a window in the east wall to make the space more user friendly. The drawings have been prepared and the project goes out for tender in the next day or so. This will not only enable us to have a more 'hireable' space but also increase the numbers of people who can attend a meeting in the room and greatly improve the sightlines for when meetings expand into the main area of the centre.

Phillipe and Simon have finished their internship here and headed back to France after nearly 6 weeks in New Zealand. They spent much of that time at Otari and Robyn Smith was kind enough to take them on a tour of other parts of the North Island. Coming up later this year we will be having visits from more Kew staff and there is a regular stream of enquiries from France and Germany and the United States.

Applications for the Curator/Manager and gardener positions closed this week. We are now sifting through these to assess the applications. In the meantime James Jones has been seconded up from the Botanic Garden to manage the day to day activities at Otari. He is being assisted by Leanne Killalea who is the Team Manager Plant Collections at the Botanic Garden.

We had a very successful training day with the hosts and new hosts on Saturday 14 May. It was great to see so many attending and the afternoon was perfect for John Dawson's familiarisation tour. With the immediate administration of the hosts now being undertaken by the Trust and continuing support from the Wellington City council, the hosting programme should be a lot more streamlined and effective. My thanks to those who contributed and participated on the day.

I sign off in anticipation of the appointment of a new Curator/Manager and gardener!

*Regards*

*David Sole*

*Manager, Wellington Botanic Gardens*

# Revegetation Project 2005 - Trust Coordinator's Report

The project continues with the support of GWRC, the WCC, the Kennett Bros. and the Trust.

The **Bio-security Division** of the **GWRC** will keep up plant pest control of the new areas to be restored. They have designated these areas as part of the programme of pest management of the Kaiwharawhara Stream catchment, under their *Key Native Ecosystems* scheme. To have this support is a good part of the battle won to have new areas restored with native plants.

In addition the **GWRC** under their '*Environmental Care*' programme will support with some funds, the continued planting, plant-care and monitoring of all native trees so far planted.

**The Wellington City Council** have awarded the Trust a further '*Environmental Grant*'.

The amount is \$8000:00. These funds are specifically to support the extension of our project to undertake "Restoration with native plants in the Kaiwharawhara Stream catchment area and supervision of all field work".

**The Kennett Bros.** have advised us that they are willing to continue with the recruitment of volunteers, and will be getting some support from the enthusiastic 'Global Volunteer Network'. These young volunteers come from a wide variety of countries and cultures, and really enjoy planting native trees in Otari. Jonathan and Bronwen will continue supervision of the planting, plant-care, and plant monitoring, bringing to the project essential professional skills and experience

**The Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust** have formed a sub-committee to support this year's extended project. Members are: Jock Fleming, Maggy Wassilief, and Wilbur Dovey.

The Trust Board will provide further funds toward payment of the professional services that the Kennett Bros. have agreed to provide.

We have developed a new relationship. The **Trelissick Park / Ngaio Gorge** Working Group have agreed to support and help out the project's intention to link the Otari area with the bush area immediately north of Churchill Drive, an extension of the Kaiwharawhara Stream. Looking ahead, it is hoped you'll be able to walk in dense native bush adjacent to the stream, from the Ian Galloway Park in Northland down to the stream's outlet at Kaiwharawhara. The Trelissick Park / Ngaio Gorge Working Group have a good part of this walkway completed. At present you need to enter this walkway at the rail over-bridge near the Crofton Downs station. Once on the track you can walk for miles. Grant Preston-Thomas and his team, with Jonathan Kennett and others, have recently completed building a large section of this walkway. It's worth a visit. The WCC are helping out, and will be installing a few more walking bridges. It's a beautiful walk, and so close. This development is within the WCC's '*Project Kaiwharawhara*'.

The 50 to 60 pine-trees are down and out from the recently acquired 'Education land' adjacent to the Troup picnic area. A huge helicopter lifted them out last Saturday. The area runs from the Troup picnic area, along up stream beyond the first bridge, then right back to the school boundary. Quite a bit of it is already growing native trees. Recently the bio-security staff (GWRC), with staff

from Otari, and the Kennett Bros. surveyed this ‘huge’ acquisition. Their report is that it’s going to be quite a task to get the area cleared of pest plants and ready for planting with natives, but quite within our reach.

Vandals destroyed the laminated ‘interpretation panels’ that recorded the native trees planted and the volunteers who worked in each of the 21 planting zones, that we’ve planted over the last four years. Bronwen has written them up again and they have now all been replaced.

This, and the persistence of frisky, elusive rabbits have been a bit of a setback to overcome.

*Jock Fleming*

## **More Words from the Valley**

Winter is here. It must be. We’ve just had the longest stretch imaginable without sight nor sound of the sun, and this morning Jonathan and I sharpened up our colouring-in pencils. And what do colouring-in pencils have to do with winter? Well, the one saving grace of an otherwise dreary season is that we finally get to start planting native trees again. So, it’s time to draw up the posters that attract all the lovely tree planting people. That means you!

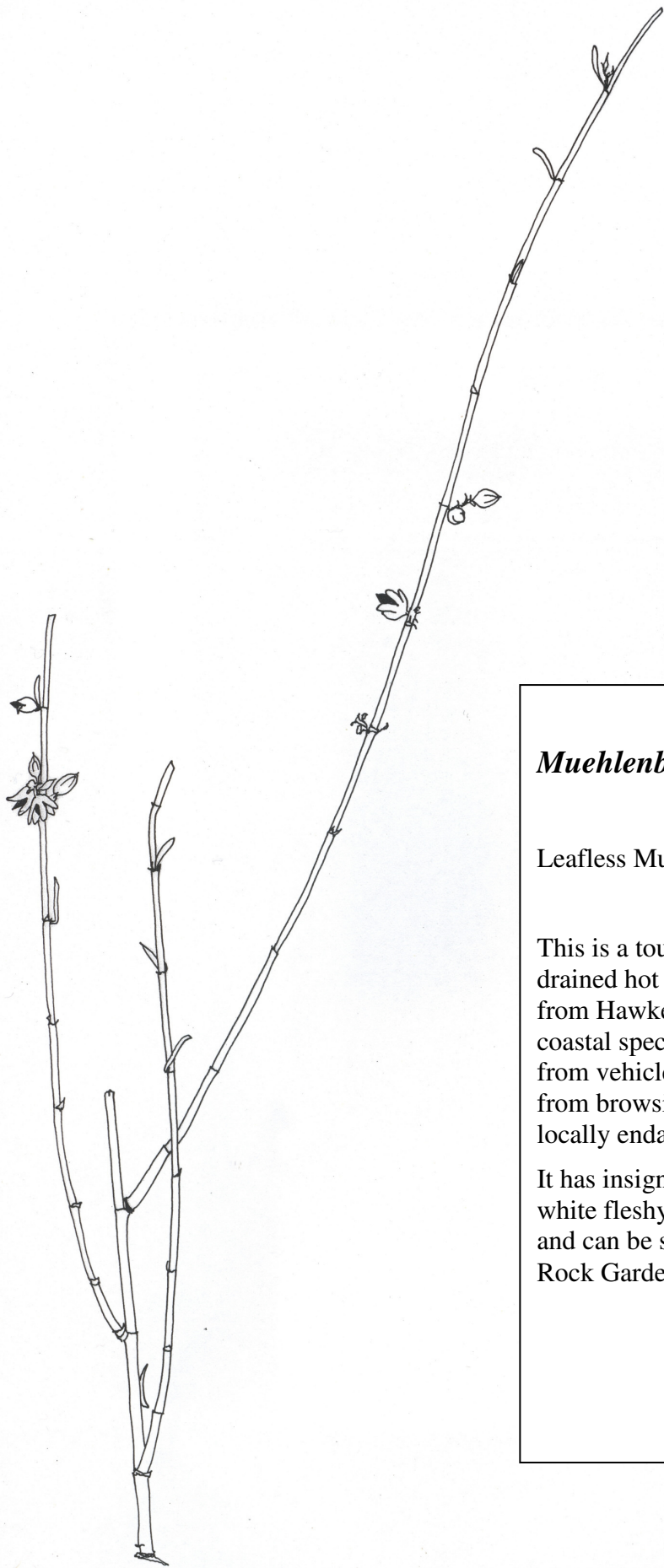
Some of you sharp ones could be thinking at this stage, “Hang on a moment, they’ve planted out all 21 reveg sites by now, surely!” and you’d be right. However, now is the time for consolidation, infilling and biodiversity. Half the sites are looking great, but the rest need a little extra help. Last winter, we had some sharp frosts that dealt to many of the tender plants on the shady side of the picnic area, then the rabbits moved into the sunny side and wreaked havoc on certain tasty species. Some of the sites are looking decidedly forlorn. This planting season is going to see us make a serious effort to pack in plants that are frost hardy and rabbit unfriendly. The rabbits love coprosma and will try their buck teeth on five finger, cabbage tree and lancewood. It’s a real shame about the coprosma because these are the hardiest of the shrubby plants and provide an ideal long-term habitat for climax species such as miro and kahikatea. However, the rabbits don’t seem to care for pittosporums, and we’re keen to give flax a go. We’ve also got more plastic plant-protection sleeves that we can put up around the plants they *do* like. So it’s all hands on deck (the deck outside the information centre, that is), on Saturday mornings throughout June and July. We meet at 9am and plant till 11am. I hope you’re all ready for some winter exercise!

*Bronwen*

## **Gift Ideas**

The Otari-Wilton’s Bush greeting cards are ideal as small gifts. These cards, featuring plants growing in Otari-Wilton’s Bush, are available singly (\$2.00) or in packs of 4 (\$7.50). Supplies can be obtained from the hosts at the Information Centre 11am -3.30pm Saturday or Sunday, or by contacting Athol Swann or Margaret Crimp.

A gift of Trust membership to your friends is another suggestion. Use the membership form on the back of the Newsletter. The Treasurer will be happy to welcome and inform your friend that the membership was gifted by you.



***Muehlenbeckia ephedroides***

Leafless Muehlenbeckia

This is a tough coastal plant, found in well drained hot sunny sandy or stony places from Hawke's Bay to Oamaru. Like many coastal species its habitat is under threat from vehicle damage, and possibly also from browsing animals. It is rare, and locally endangered in the Wellington area.

It has insignificant flowers, followed by a white fleshy fruit with a shiny black seed, and can be seen growing in the General Rock Garden above the pond.

# Submission to: Wellington City Council

Draft Annual Plan 2005 / 2006

## 1) This submission is from the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

## 2) Our submission is in support of *Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve.*

A distinctive feature of the activity within this Reserve is its focus on 'the preservation of indigenous flora and particularly *rare and endangered species.*

In recognition of this, Otari has recently been given the *distinction and recognition* of being '**a garden of national significance**' by the New Zealand Gardens Trust.

We thank the Council for this opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Annual Plan 2005 / 2006

A brief description of the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust is attached as an appendix.

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### Reference Page 92 / C560 & Page 94 / CX 348

As a community supported group the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust consider that the allocation by Council of funds to support the fieldwork within the Reserve should be separated from the total allocation of funds to, 'botanic gardens', so that its obligation to fulfill its commitment to preserve the increasing collection of indigenous flora particularly the delicate rare and endangered plant species, is fully undertaken.

This obligation is expressed in its 'Management Plan'. Funding for this should be assessed, and expressed at annual intervals to ensure that there is an adequate response to the regular monitoring of the native plant-care, that is undertaken.

Since the 1920's when the decision was made to 'create a collection of indigenous plants, within easy reach of the city that could be enjoyed by the public and provide material for study', Otari has been the focus for serious botanical collection and study of the natural vegetation and preservation of rare and endangered species.

Since 1937 when Otari was accepted by the WCC as the headquarters for the 'Native Plant Preservation Society', the propagation and planting of native flora, particularly of those that are rare and those that are endangered, has increased.

The nature of this agreed undertaking by the WCC to fulfill these requirements, has quite a separate focus from those of other 'botanic gardens', who do not have the specificity and ingredient of Otari's obligations.

**For these reasons**, we once again request Council to **separate the expenditure allocation** for Otari, so that there is some transparency and accountability for the obligated, and essential fieldwork, at Otari

This submission has been prepared by I.C. Fleming -- Trustee 20. 05. 05



## **Notes on the life of George A. Troup from Christina Troup who spoke at the AGM.**

The Troup Picnic Area at Otari Reserve was named after Sir George A. Troup, Mayor of Wellington from 1927 to 1931, at the request of Dr. Leonard Cockayne, as he had helped establish the Otari Plant Museum while mayor.

George Troup was born to Scottish parents in 1863, the fifth of nine children, and grew up in Aberdeen and Edinburgh during difficult economic times. Their father was drowned while seeking work in Glasgow when George was 11. His mother and older sisters did sewing work while he attended school. Then he was apprenticed to an architect / engineer in Edinburgh, studying architecture and art for 3 years at night school. His mother fell ill and died when George was 19. The family was dispersing – 3 of the older sisters married and migrated to New Zealand.

George decided to go to New Zealand as well, and worked his passage to Dunedin, arriving in 1884 at the age of 20. First he worked as surveyor in Otago, living in tent camps for 2 years. He saved enough to send for his youngest sister Christina to follow, and moved to Dunedin in 1866 to take a draughting / engineering position in NZ Railways Department. He and Christina became involved in a liberal Presbyterian movement that involved debate and discussion around issues of social justice and action, and in the ideas of influential thinkers such as Darwin and Marx.

In 1888 George was transferred to the New Zealand Railways NZR Head Office in Wellington, where he designed bridges, viaducts, and 18 railway stations including Dunedin, Oamaru, Kaiapoi, Blenheim, Lower Hutt and Petone . He also designed houses for railway staff that were built in settlements around the country. He became chief architect of NZR for the latter part of his career. He was formally recognised by the NZ Institute of Architects as expert on the strengths and uses of NZ native timbers.

George married Annie Sloan in 1897, and my father Gordon was born in 1898, the first of 4 children. George built a family house in Kelburn and was involved in developing that area.

On moving to Wellington George had joined St John's Presbyterian Church, and established the Young Men's Bible Class at St Johns – involving discussion groups, sports activities, community service, and as a supplement to inadequate public education. They also established the Boys Institute to support underprivileged youth. He was involved in various other projects, such as raising funds for Wellington's first children's play area in 1922.

George retired from NZR in 1925 and stood for council. In 1927 he was elected mayor, being described as Wellington's first 'Town Planning Mayor'. As the depression hit, he set up projects to keep people in employment and develop the city, included roading and the Mt Victoria tunnel, the Dominion Museum, Art Gallery and War Memorial, the Wellington air field, waterworks and housing.

George maintained a continuing interest in the arts, becoming President of the NZ Academy of Fine Arts; and in education – sitting on the Board of Governors of the Wellington Colleges and councils of Scots and Queen Margaret Colleges. He was knighted 1937, and died in 1941 aged 78.

*Christina Troup (granddaughter).*

**Submission to: WCC's Strategic Advisors.**

**From: Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.**

**Subject: The Community Outcomes Development & Long Term Council Community Plan**

**Our reference: Local Government Act 2002 Sections 91,92,93 & 94**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup>. May 2005**

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The Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust wishes to draw attention to the important role of the Otari Native Botanic Gardens and Wilton's Bush Reserve in maintaining the natural biodiversity of Wellington, and request that this maintenance be fully accepted in their long term council community plan (LTCCP).

This Reserve's native botanic garden role, of maintaining the natural biodiversity of Wellington, is in terms of the native plants growing naturally in the forest, and the native botanic garden, where a wide range of native plants from all corners of New Zealand, including a number of rare and endangered species, have been cultivated for more than 80 years

In addition to its special focus on maintaining the biodiversity of our natural flora, the Reserve plays an important role in education about native plants.

With its extensive network of tracks and trails it is also important in the provision of recreational activities.

The Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust requests that when consideration is given 'community outcomes' and the projects and programmes that support 'outcomes', that consideration be given to the biodiversity and natural environment issues detailed above.

Finally we would ask that as a community group we be kept informed of the development process, and be asked to participate whenever appropriate.

Drs. J. W. Dawson & I.C. Fleming  
on behalf of the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

*Note: Drs. Dawson and Fleming are standing-in for our Chairman - Athol Swann, who went overseas on 26.05.05, and will be out of the country for six weeks*

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## **What Native Plant is That?**

Dr John Dawson is taking a course at Onslow College about New Zealand native plants. It will look mainly at the forests which are well represented around Wellington, but we will also consider other, particularly alpine communities. Includes Saturday trips to Kaitoke Regional Park, Waikanae Forest Reserves, Otari—Wiltons Bush Native Botanic Garden and an identification morning at Otari.

Wednesdays 7-9pm and various Saturdays, starts 19 October. \$50.

Phone the college 477 1118 for further info.

# OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

## Membership Application Form

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. Membership entitles you to receive our newsletter and receive notification of all forthcoming activities at Otari - Wilton's Bush.

I wish to join the Trust .....  
 (name of new member)

Postal Address .....  
 .....  
 .....

Telephone ( ).....(Home) E-mail.....

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>	<b>(please enclose your cheque)</b>		\$

The Trust is registered as a Charitable organisation and donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible. We will automatically send you a receipt for tax purposes. 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:

- Work parties  Weekend hosting at Otari Information Centre  
 Fund raising

Please send your application to: The Treasurer,  
 Otari-Wilton's Bush,  
 160 Wilton Road,  
 Wilton,  
 Wellington.

**Grab a Friend  
and  
Head Along to Otari this Winter  
to Help with Revegetation Planting**



Every Saturday morning from **4 June**

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Meeting on the deck at the Otari Information Centre

For more information, phone Jonathan or Bronwen: 472 5891