

OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

News and Views March, 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 For information re walks and seminars contact the Treehouse on (04) 499 1400

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.
Tuesdays in March	March Seminars. 7.30pm. See page 5 for details
Sunday 24 March 2pm	Death, disease and decomposition in the forest On this walk of about 1-1.5 hours we will discuss plant diseases, including some recent ones like myrtle rust and kauri dieback, and learn about vectors and how pathways for disease transmission can be reduced. We'll also investigate typical ways that trees and shrubs die and how they are broken down by invertebrates, fungi and microorganisms to provide nutrients for living plants, animals and fungi. <i>Leader: Carol West</i>
Sunday 28 April 2pm	Introduction to the Fungi Kingdom Fungi are different from plants and have their own biological kingdom. This walk of about 1 – 1.5 hours will give you a basic understanding of this enormous kingdom and give you an idea of where to find them. <i>Leader: Geoff Ridley</i>
Wednesday 15 May	AGM 7.15pm. See pages 2, 6, 9.
Sunday 26 May 2pm	More about the Fungi Kingdom This foray of about 1 – 1.5 hours 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. <i>Leader: Geoff Ridley</i>
Sunday 23 June 2pm	Animal Pests & Predators in Otari Learn about 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 climbing some steep terrain. Good walking shoes or boots are essential and you will need to be reasonably fit for this 1 – 1.5 hour walk. <i>Leader: Jim Tait</i>

Chairman's Message



Kia Ora everybody,

After a long spell of virtually no rainfall, last weekend finally brought some relief and the gardens and bush reserve are responding. The staff have been working hard and watering sparingly. Some visitors even liked the odd sprinkle to relieve the hot humid weather!

The Trust and volunteers have been busy with guided tours, revegetation, hosting, nursery and weeding which has certainly helped to keep up the high standards required.

Our walks program kicked off with a Te Papa visit hosted by Leon Perrie. This gave some further insight into the new Nature exhibition now due to open in May at Te Papa. The programme continues later this month with a walk and talk by Carol West on Death, disease and decomposition in the forest. This will then be followed by two fungi walks hosted by Geoff Ridley.

The other main event this month is the March seminars, always well attended, everybody welcome every Tuesday at 7:30pm.

Visitor numbers are continuing to rise and there is pressure on car parking in both main car parks. There has also been an increase of around 40% in cruise and special tours this year with great responses from most groups. Otari staff have also helped with minimising major works while tours are in operation.

An exchange with Zealandia guides also took place with them visiting Otari and our guides visiting Zealandia. They are also dealing with issues of need for guide volunteers, parking and administration that surrounds increased tourism. Our guides enjoyed the opportunity to chat with them and a delicious morning tea was served.

We look forward to a busy 2019 with several local and overseas conference tours being arranged later in the year at Otari. The Wellington Botanic garden celebrates 150 years, and BGANZ is holding its Australasian conference in Wellington in October.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped in whatever capacity at the Trust Board and staff greatly appreciate your service.

As one group recently put it "This garden is credit not only to the city but to the staff and volunteers who work in it."

Kind regards

Phil Parnell

Chair Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

Trust Annual General Meeting

This important meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 May at 7.15pm

At this meeting there will be the election of Trustees.

We would be delighted to hear from any member who is interested in becoming a Trustee .

See nomination form page 9.

For more information contact Phil Parnell or Wilbur Dovey

Otari Report



Kia ora koutou,

We have had a great summer period; the number of visitors seems to have been at an all-time high this summer. With holiday programmes, school visits, cruise ship tours and bookings in the Leonard Cockayne Centre we have really felt well visited this summer.

We have also had a surprising increase in the number of people wanting to volunteer in order to increase their knowledge of New Zealand's flora.

We have had Flo McNeill assisting over the last three months who, a student Landscape Architect student who is eager to use more native plants in her work after graduating. Good to see our ongoing relationship with the School of Architecture paying off in this way. We are also hoping to engage an intern placement from the Museum and Heritage Studies classes over the coming months, possibly looking at a range of projects around interpretation in the Information Centre and gardens.

You may have seen some recent media articles about people eeling in the Kaiwharawhara stream, an activity we are concerned about and which is not permitted in Otari, or any Wellington City Council reserve. Longfin eels breed only once - at the end of an extraordinary lifecycle - and we want to give them the opportunity to do so. If you should see any eeling activity please simply report it to the WCC call centre by ringing 04 499 4444.

Over the late autumn months we will begin to redevelop some of the gardens. The alpine garden and gardens below the lookout will be receiving some renovations.

If any of you are Facebook fans make sure you follow our shared Facebook page with the Wellington Botanic Garden - 'Wellington Gardens'. Megan on staff here has been putting up some great posts that are receiving a lot of positive attention. A great way to see some of the beautiful plants at Otari and prompt you along for another visit.

Kind regards,

Rewi Elliot

Team Manager - Otari-Wilton's Bush

rewi.elliott@wcc.govt.nz

Bioblitz - Uncover the secrets of Wellington Botanic Garden

Join the team for a 24-hour bioblitz to uncover all that lives hidden at Wellington Botanic Gardens. 3pm, 5 April - 3pm, 6 April 2019

Event details and how to get involved at wellingtongardens.nz/bioblitz

Trust Board 2018 - 2019



The Board of Trustees for the current year is:

Chairman Phil Parnell	93 Amritsar St, Khandallah. Phone: 479 2239	landy@xtra.co.nz	
Secretary: Wilbur Dovey	40 Warwick St., Wilton. Phone: 499 1044	cweag.dovey@xtra.co.nz	
Treasurer. Jocelyn Hoskin	14 Warwick St, Wilton. Phone: 475 8696	jhoskin62@gmail.com	
Bev Abbott	40 Pembroke Road, Northland	bevabbott@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 475 8468
Peter Buxton	3 Ngaio Road, Kelburn, 6012, <i>(to 3 Ngaio Road, Kelburn, Wellington 6012, in April 2018 after 43 years in Wadestown).</i>	pebuxton@xtra.co.nz	Phone: 475 3848 027 4723455.
Jane Humble	16 Izard 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

Subscriptions for the next financial year fall due in March. If you pay early you won't be plagued by reminders.

Or pay by internet banking:

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

Jocelyn Hoskin, jhoskin62@gmail.com Phone: 475 8696, 027 4659232

Otari March seminar series.

All seminars will start at 7.30pm in the Information Centre, Te Marae o Tane, Wilton Road. Gold coin donation.

Tuesday March 5: “The various contrivances by which the New Zealand orchids self-fertilise”. Ian St George

Tuesday March 12: “Otari: Leading plant conservation in New Zealand through science and horticulture”. Karin van der Walt

Tuesday March 19: “A social history of the fern in New Zealand”. Patrick Brownsey

Tuesday March 26: “Why is *Hebe armstrongii* rare?” Debra Wotton\



Exchange Tour of Otari and Zealandia by Cruise Ship Guides.

On the 7th February 2019 twenty-six cruise ship guides from Otari and Zealandia met for the morning.

Starting at Otari we took the visiting guides on the same tour that we take the cruise ship passengers. The weather was fine, Otari was looking its best... and the birds were well in evidence! Knowing we had other experienced guides on our tours did change the usual dynamic, but the atmosphere was relaxed, there were lots of questions and the shared experiences were helpful and encouraging.

We then proceeded to Zealandia for a cup of tea before swapping roles and being taken on the interesting and bird focused Zealandia tour.

The purpose of this gathering, apart from the obvious enjoyment and interest of the respective tours, was to gain a greater understanding of what each organization was doing so that both parties can avoid duplicating material, and help both parties to understand our respective strengths.

The discussion following the tours was helpful and wide ranging, demonstrating how much tour material each organization has to work with. Perhaps the only danger for the tourist is information overload.

Jane Humble



Guides, from left Jocelyn from Otari, Jennifer and Sheena from Zealandia.

Photo taken at Zealandia by Carol West.

Otari awards

The Board is calling for nominations for the Otari awards. These are granted for distinguished volunteer service.

The number of awards will be limited to no more than three each year.

Only financial members, or the staff, are eligible to nominate volunteer workers for these awards.

Nominees must have made a considerable contribution to the work of the Trust and they must also be financial members of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.

The Chairman of the Board will appoint a panel of no more than three to make the final selection. It will contain one independent (non-Board) member. The selection panel will be chaired by the Chairman of the Board.

Nominations should be submitted in writing by 31 March to the Secretary of the Board. The awards will take the form of a framed certificate personalised for each of the recipients.

The awards will be presented at the AGM in May



Collecting trip to Otago

In the last week of January I went with the Botanical Society to Central Otago for a week. I had a collecting permit from DoC, and was able to collect seed and cuttings of a large number of species, with a focus mostly on alpine plants that we don't already have.

We started with Chapman Road scientific reserve, a saline wetland with some very unusual plants in it, including *Atriplex buchananii*, and *Raoulia beauverdii*. Then we went to Flat Top Hill, which was depressingly weedy but with some interesting natives in amongst the clover and roses.

The next three days were spent in high alpine environments; we went to the Old Man Range, the Remarkables ski area and Cardrona. There was some tall tussock grassland, but most of the time seemed to be spent in herbfields populated almost entirely by scabweeds and assorted green cushions, most of which turned out to *Dracophyllum muscoides* on close inspection. Amongst it were a range of very small and often cryptic plants such as *Pachycladon novae-zelandiae*, *Leptinella goyenii*, *Anisotome lanuginosa*, several small species of cushion forming *Celmisia* and *Myosotis*. There were occasional boggy areas with *Caltha obtusa*, small *Carexes* such as *C. berggrenii*, *Montia*, *Plantago* and more small *Myosotis*.

We spent a day on lowland reserves along the Clutha River, including another saline flat which had some very rare small and cryptic species in it - *Raoulia monroi*, *Leptinella conjuncta*, *Convolvulus verecundus*, and *Lepidium sisymbryooides*, all of which we saw - it helps taking along a local botanist! Then we went to Lindis crossing, a site which had *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*, *Convolvulus verecundus* and *Carmichaelia petriei*; and an ephemeral wetland covered in *Limosella lineata*. We finished that day at Bendigo Historic Reserve, which (as well as remains of old cottages and very deep holes in the ground) had a lot of *Vittadinia australis*.

The last day was spent at Bob's Cove, near Queenstown, in bush which was full of species you would see around Wellington, and which was entirely devoid of scabweeds.

Photos on following two pages

Eleanor Burton



**Central Otago
Alpine Plants**

*Photos:
Eleanor Burton*

Top left: *Raoulia grandiflora*
Centre left : *Raoulia youngii*,
Bottom left : *Haastia recurva*

Top right: *Raoulia subsericea*,
Centre right: *Phyllachne colensoi*,
Bottom right: *Hectorella caespitosa*,





Top left:
Gentianella divisa,

Top right:
*Veronica
lycopodioides*,

Centre left:
Aciphylla kirkii.

Centre right:
*Convolvulus
verecundus*,



Bottom left:
Aciphylla hectori,

Bottom right:
Craspedia lanata,

**Central Otago
Alpine Plants**

*Photos:
Eleanor Burton*



OTARI-WILTON'S BUSH TRUST

160 Wilton Road,
WELLINGTON 6012

NOMINATION FORM FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

(To be completed by the nominator)

I (please print full name) _____

being a financial member of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, wish to nominate as a
Trustee:

Name of person being nominated: _____

Nominee's address:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DECLARATION

(to be completed by the person being nominated)

I (please print full name) _____ being a
financial member of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, agree to being nominated as a
Trustee.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Celmisia densiflora

This *Celmisia* is found from southern Marlborough to northern Southland, occupying a range of habitats in the montane to subalpine zone. This specimen was collected growing among tall tussock on the Remarkables ski field. This species is closely related to *C. prorepens*, which we also have growing at Otari in the shade house; *Celmisia* needs some taxonomic revision.



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	\$
Billing name & address: (if different from above)		Total Payment:	\$

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed (Please make out to Otari Wilton's Bush Trust)	<input type="checkbox"/> Paid electronically (please mark DONATION & your NAME in reference. Westpac account # 030518 0205713 000)
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*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