

#### Forest reserve areas

There are 100 hectares of forest made up of original and regenerating podocarp broadleaf forest. Large conifers (podocarps) such as rimu, totara, miro and matai can be viewed from the Canopy Walkway or the Nature Trail. About 150 species of flowering plants, conifers and ferns can be found in the forest.

Epiphytes or perching plants sit high in the branches of mature trees. Climbing plants, including the New Zealand passionfruit, supplejack and rata occur throughout the forest. Kohekohe, rewarewa, tawa and mahoe trees dominate the upper slopes and merge with forest remnants of old rimu and matai. In the wetter areas, tall pukatea can be seen

On the high south-facing slopes, scrub is dominated by introduced gorse and Darwin's barberry with colonising native plants such as mahoe and rangiora.

Native birds include tui, kereru, fantail, silver eye, kingfisher, grey warbler and morepork.

Management of the forest involves:

with their buttressed roots.

- Possum and rat control: This is necessary to allow further regeneration of the forest and to ensure native birds have adequate food and nectar.
- Weed control: Aggressive weeds such as old man's beard, ivy, jasmine and tradescantia are controlled.
- Revegetation: Plants are grown from seed collected in the forest and planted back in selected areas each winter.



## **Native botanic garden**

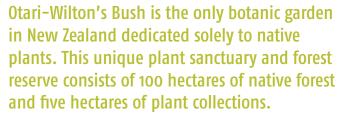
The plant collections contain approximately 1200 species, hybrids and cultivars from the subantarctic islands in the south to Cape Reinga and offshore islands in the north.

Almost all of the plants have been raised from cuttings or seed collected from the wild.

Details of each plant are documented and kept on a computer database.

The plant collections represent and describe New Zealand's native flora for the purposes of:

- Education: The plant collections are labelled so visitors can learn about the use and cultivation of native plants.
   Many school groups visit to learn more about New Zealand's environment.
- Conservation: The collections contain many threatened species. Seedlings grown from these plants are planted back into the wild as part of plant conservation recovery programmes.
- Research: Scientists use the plant collections for research into such things as plant structure and form, economic uses of native plants and their extracts, and classification and naming.
- Horticulture: The collections showcase landscape design and the ornamental uses of native plants.



Otari-Wilton's Bush was originally covered with dense podocarp broadleaf forest. Maori used the forest for hunting and the name Otari means 'Place of Snares'. Following European colonisation, some of the large trees were removed for timber and others were burnt off for farmland. One of the early landowners, Job Wilton, preserved seven hectares (17 acres) of the original forest and fenced it off. This became known as Wilton's Bush.

In 1906 the forest was gazetted as scenic reserve. In 1926 the Otari Open Air Native Plant Museum was established by Dr Leonard Cockayne and JG McKenzie. Their vision to conserve the native forest, cultivate plants from all over New Zealand, teach people about native plants and advocate their use in horticulture remains the blueprint for Otari-Wilton's Bush today.



# **Events and programmes**

**Guided tours** are available for groups.

Tours are lead by experienced guides and tailored to suit your needs. Bookings essential – phone 499 1400.

## **Visitor information**

The Information Centre – Te Marae O Tane – is open 8am–4pm daily and contains displays, information and seating for visiting groups. The small lecture room can be booked for horticultural and educational purposes. Next to the Information Centre, a 75–metre Canopy Walkway soars 18 metres above the forest floor. It provides a fully accessible tree–top experience between the two garden areas.

#### **Barbecues**

Two electric barbecues are available at the Troup Picnic Area. These are free to use.

#### **Nature Trail**

A self-guided Nature Trail starts at the Information Centre. Pick up a brochure for the Nature Trail at the start of the Canopy Walkway.

## Wheelchair access

Paths are fully accessible to wheelchairs from the Wilton Road car park to the Information Centre, over the Canopy Walkway to the lookout and along the Wilton Walkway to the viewing platform.

### How to get there:

Take the **No 14 bus** from Lambton Quay to Gloucester Street, outside Otari-Wilton's Bush.

**Car** – the main public car park is on Wilton Road. Additional car parking is available on Churchill Drive.

Otari-Wilton's Bush:

160 Wilton Road
Phone: 64 4 475 3245
Fax: 64 4 475 9417
Email: otari@wcc.govt.nz
Web: www.Wellington.govt.nz

#### Otari-Wilton's Bush 🦻 native botanic garden and forest reserve Wilton's Bush forest reserve to Skyline Walkway Circular Walk – 30 minutes, steep in some places, via the Troup Picnic Lawn Kaiwharawhara Track – 30 minutes, gentle walk from the Troup Picnic Lawn Forest trails – these trails all have some steep gradients with steps. Nature Trail - 20-40 minutes, a self-guided trail with an information pamphlet, Blue Trail – one hour, past mature rimu trees, through kohekohe-dominated forest Yellow Trail – 40 minutes, cross over streams running through a steep forest valley Red Trail - 40 minutes, through tawa-dominated forest and past the Flax Clearing to Skyline Walkway Car parking Flax 800=year-Clearing old rimu to Wadestown and city and picnic lawn Picnic Lawn Wilton House Otari South School Wilton Park Information Centre to Karori Cemetery and Jolinston Hill Wilton and main entrance Bowling to Karori Cemetery and to Karon and city Native botanic garden enlargement To Troup Picnic Lawn Wilton's Bush Keep dogs on a lead at all times and remove faeces. Keep to the formed tracks. Place all rubbish in the bins provided. Canopy Walkway No open fires. Nature Trail start Do not pick, damage or remove plant material. Main entrance 1 and car park No camping allowed. Bus stop ✓ for city ■ **Information** Wilton Road Centre Do not ride bicycles. Open 8am-4pm Banks · Entrance Key 1 Plants for the home garden 11 Olearia species **Cabbage Tree Lawn** 2 Brockie Rock Garden 12 Northern collection ₩aharoa 3 Wellington coastal plants Circular Walk – 30 minutes 14 Gymnosperm (conifer) collection Nature Trail – 20–40 minutes 4 Grass and sedge species 5 Threatened species Secondary paths **15** Fernery 19 16 Alpine Garden Wilton's Bush 6 Hebe species 7 Rainshadow Garden 17 Dracophyllum Garden Bus stop for city **18** 38° 8 Flax cultivars Garden area 9 Pittosporum species 19 Broom Garden Wilton-† Dr Leonard Cockayne's grave - Wilton Walkway 10 Coprosma species Entrance