

Otari-Wilton's Bush is the only botanic garden in New Zealand dedicated solely to native plants. This unique plant sanctuary and forest reserve consists of 100 hectares of native forest and 5 hectares of plant collections.

Otari-Wilton's Bush was originally covered with dense podocarp broadleaf forest. Maori used the forest for hunting hence the name Otari which 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 7 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 as the blueprint for Otari-Wilton's Bush today.



Tiohi - *Alectryon excelsus*



Tui

Events and programmes

There are plenty of opportunities for visitors to learn about plants and enjoy Otari-Wilton's Bush:

Guided tours are available for groups. Tours are led by experienced guides and tailored to suit your needs. A small donation per person is appreciated. Bookings essential – phone **(04) 499 1400**.

Seminars and workshops are run from time to time. Check the notice boards for details or our website www.Wellington.govt.nz

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.

Wheelchair access

Paths are sealed and fully accessible to wheelchair standard from the car park passing the Information Centre, over the Canopy Walkway to the lookout.

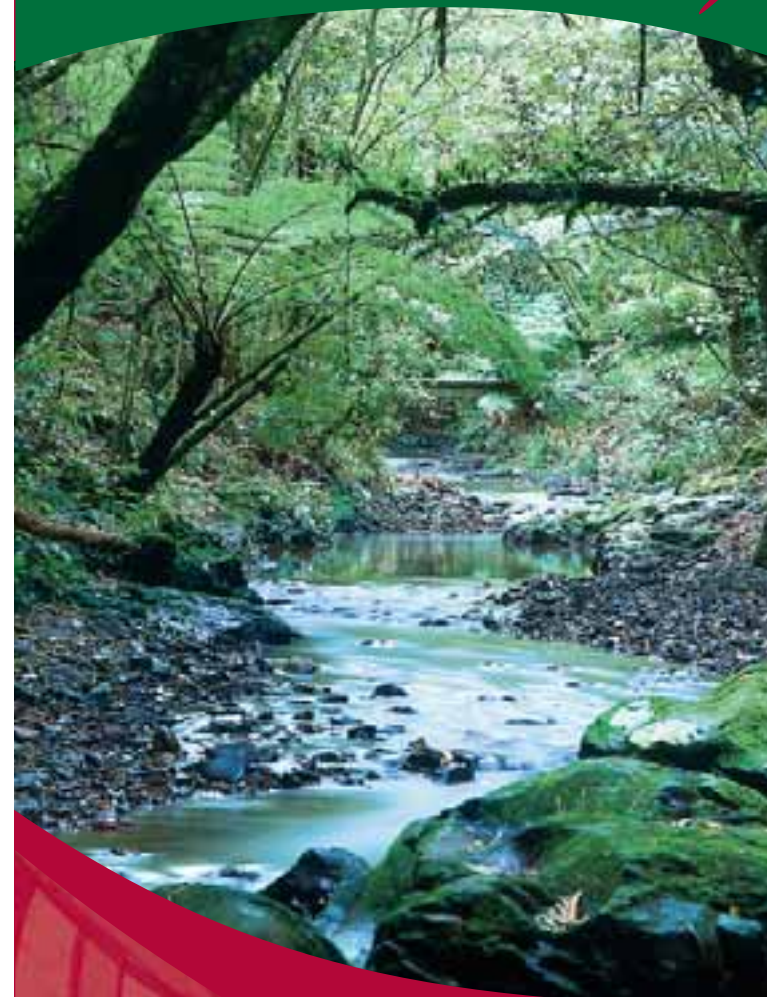
How to get there:

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.

Contact Otari-Wilton's Bush:
Phone: 64-4-475 3245 Fax: 64-4-475 9417
Email: otari@wcc.govt.nz
Web: www.Wellington.govt.nz

Otari-Wilton's Bush



Absolutely

POSITIVELY

THE BOTANIC GARDENS OF WELLINGTON
Otari-Wilton's Bush

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Wellington

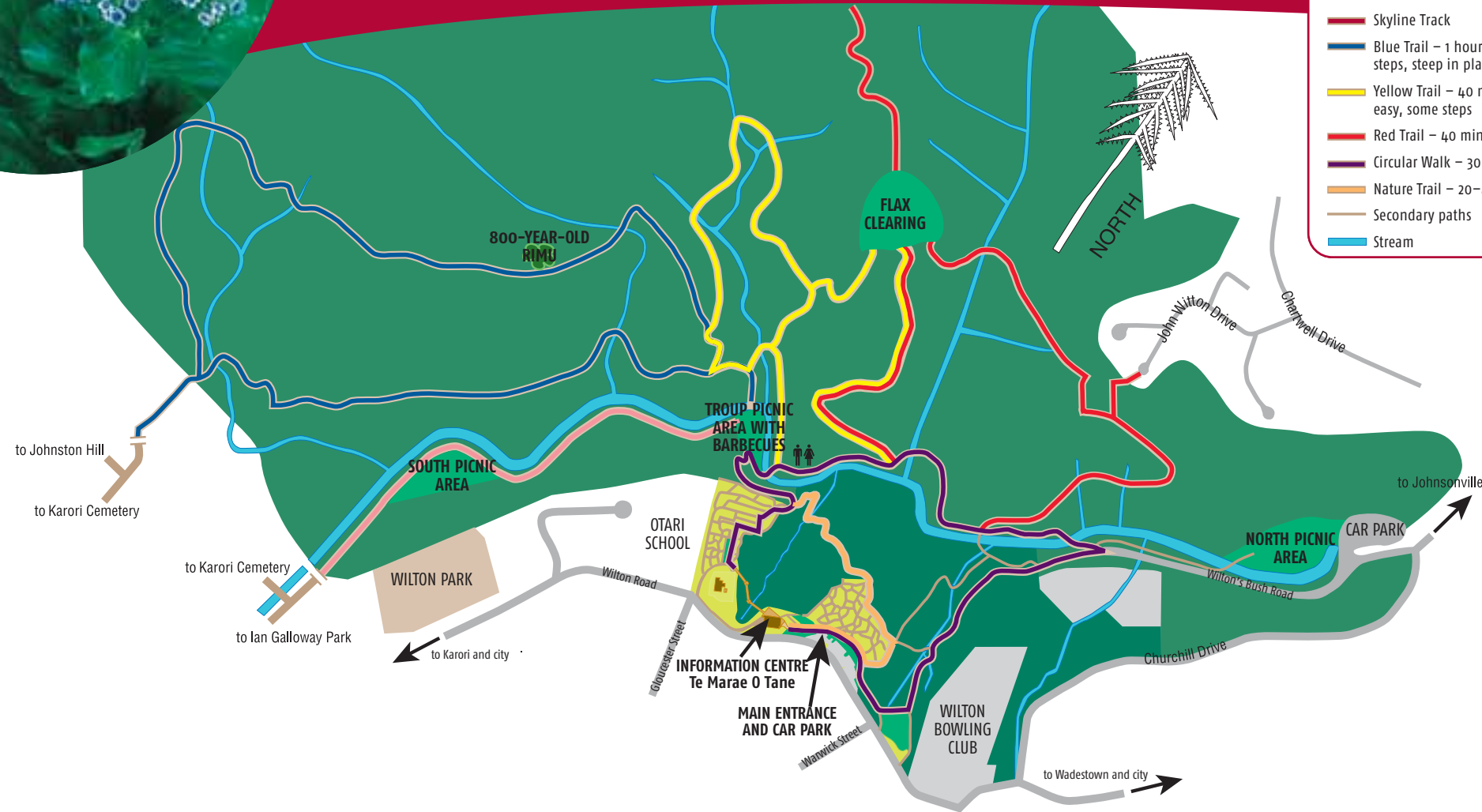
Otari-Wilton's Bush

Native Botanic Garden and Forest Reserve

Natural forest areas and walking tracks

KEY

- Natural forest
- Wilton's Bush
- Lawn areas
- Garden areas
- Kaiwharawhara Track – 30 minutes, gentle walk
- Skyline Track
- Blue Trail – 1 hour, mainly through dense kohekohe forest, steps, steep in places
- Yellow Trail – 40 minutes, through original forest, relatively easy, some steps
- Red Trail – 40 minutes, steps, steep in some places
- Circular Walk – 30 minutes, steep in some places, no steps
- Nature Trail – 20–40 minutes, steep in some places, steps
- Secondary paths
- Stream



-  Dogs are welcome. Keep dogs on a lead at all times and remove faeces.
-  Keep to the formed tracks.
-  Place all rubbish in the bins provided.
-  No open fires.
-  Do not pick, damage or remove plant material.
-  No camping allowed.
-  Do not ride bicycles.

The reserve lies between 70–280 metres above sea level

Average daily temperature 8–20C: (46–68F)

Average rainy days 125 per year

Rainfall 1240mm per year

Frost 10 ground frosts per year

Information

The **Troup Picnic Area** is an idyllic spot alongside the Kaiwharawhara Stream on the Circular Walk. It has coin-operated gas barbecues, cost \$1 coin.

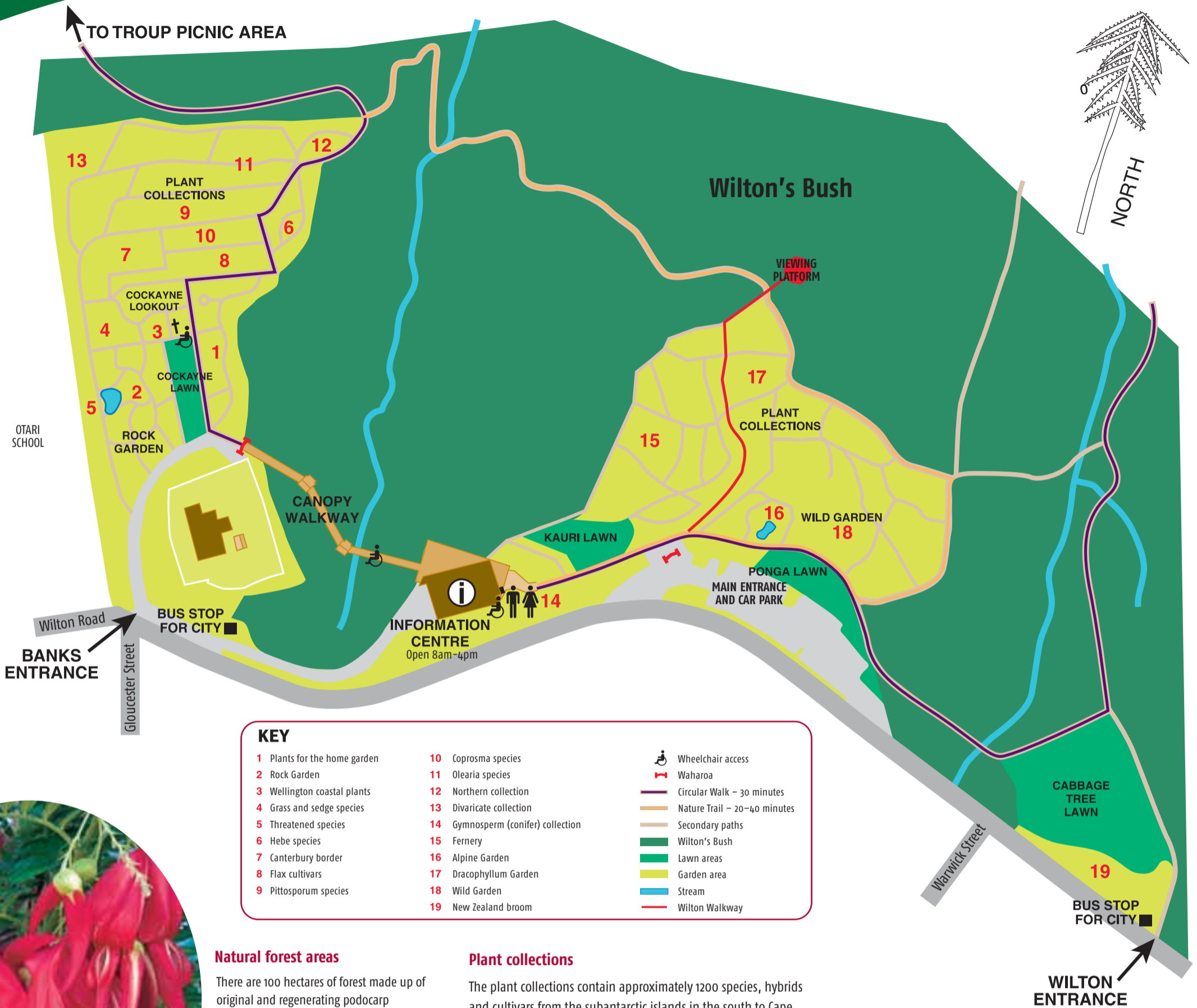
Walking tracks

About 11 kilometres of walking tracks weave through forest and open grass areas.

See KEY for further information.



Kakaha – *Astelia chathamica*



KEY					
1	Plants for the home garden	10	Coprosma species		Wheelchair access
2	Rock Garden	11	Olearia species		Waharoa
3	Wellington coastal plants	12	Northern collection		Circular Walk – 30 minutes
4	Grass and sedge species	13	Divaricate collection		Nature Trail – 20–40 minutes
5	Threatened species	14	Gymnosperm (conifer) collection		Secondary paths
6	Hebe species	15	Fernery		Wilton's Bush
7	Canterbury border	16	Alpine Garden		Lawn areas
8	Flax cultivars	17	Dracophyllum Garden		Garden area
9	Pittosporum species	18	Wild Garden		Stream
		19	New Zealand broom		Wilton Walkway



Kakabeak – *Climanthus puniceus*

Natural forest 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 with their buttressed roots.

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:

- **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.

Plant collections

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.



Canopy Walkway