



## Introduction

One of the objectives of the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden is "to foster public interest in the educational, historical, cultural, recreational and scientific functions of the Garden". To this end the Society arranges each year seminars on topics related to the Garden and believed to be of general public interest.

In 2005 one of the chosen topics was "Wellington's Native Bush : Forward from the Brink". It reflected the concern of the Friends about the preservation of native bush areas within the Botanic Garden and elsewhere in Wellington. They are heritage features of the City and deserve much greater awareness among citizens and visitors.

We were very pleased to have been able to bring together a panel of distinguished and expert speakers on various aspects of the topic, and to now publish their presentations for the benefit of a wider audience. We consider the papers make a major contribution towards better understanding of the value of the native bush resources, particularly those in the Botanic Garden, and the vital need for continuing attention to ensure their preservation, upkeep, and appropriate visitor appeal enhancement. We thank the presenters again for their contributions.

The Friends dedicate this publication to Winsome Shepherd, a Life Member of the Society, for her work in the design and organisation of the seminar held on 12 June 2005. We express our thanks also to Kerryn Pollock for arranging the production of this volume.

Ted Woodfield  
President  
Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden.

# Author Biographies

**Marian Minson** has been the curator of Drawings and Prints at the Alexander Turnbull Library since 1980. She regularly publishes and speaks to groups on the interpretation of early New Zealand history by artists.

**Walter Cook** works in the Alexander Turnbull Library photographic archive. He co-authored with Winsome Shepherd *The Botanic Garden Wellington: a New Zealand History, 1840-1987* in 1988.

**Maggy Wassilieff** is a botanist and ecologist. She consults on environmental projects with a special interest in native bush and reforestation.

**John Dawson** is a botanist and retired lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington, where he remains a Senior Associate in the Department of Biological Sciences. He is the author of several books on New Zealand flora and a member of the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust Board.

**Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Home** are active members and past presidents of the Wellington Botanical Society. They were commissioned by the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden to carry out a study of the native bush remnants in the Garden.

**David Sole** is the Manager of the Wellington Botanic Garden and the Otari-Wilton's Bush.