

A Harmonious Blend of Nature and Tradition: Japanese Tea Ceremony at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush

On June 17, 2023, Ambassador Ito and Mrs Ito had the pleasure of attending the Japanese tea ceremony event organised by Wellington Sakai Association and Wellington Omote-Senke Sado Club. Prior to the ceremony, we were warmly guided by Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust through the Ōtari-Wilton's Bush, the only public botanical garden in New Zealand dedicated to native vegetation. The garden's diverse fauna and flora, thriving fernery, and sprawling tree vines reaching for sunlight captivated us, creating a serene escape from urban life. We learned that Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust and Wellington City Council have made earnest and longstanding efforts in conservation and predator control.

Guided walks along trails and paths, as well as a canopy walkway, took us to the alpine garden lookout, offering a breathtaking view of the surrounding forests. The venue exuded a sense of serenity and tranquility, values cherished in the tea ceremony's basic principles. With a peaceful mindset, we delighted in the graceful performance of Omote-Senke, immersing ourselves in the natural calmness.



Warmly greeted by Wellington Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon, Ōtari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve Manager Tim Park, and Ōtari Wilton's Bush Trust Board of Trustees



Briefed by Ōtari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve Manager Tim Park and Ōtari Wilton's Bush Trust Board of Trustees



Sprawling ferns overlooked from the canopy walkway



A view from the Cockayne Lookout



Tea ceremony performance by Wellington Omote-Senke Sado Club at the Leonard Cockayne