



FRIENDS OF
EASTWOODHILL

*Friends
OF
Eastwoodhill*

Autumn / Winter 2023





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Visitor Centre - Opening Hours

Weekdays 8am – 4.30pm
Weekends and public holidays 9am – 4pm

Eastwoodhill Trust Board

Jane Williams (Chair)
Kaye Williams
Peter Jackman
Susan Kemp
Patrick Willock
Philip Cave

Newsletter designed by
Draggnett Design



Welcome

Welcome to Autumn- although we have had somewhat of a different weather pattern to normal all the way since early Spring! WET WET WET! Everything has been so lush for the last six months which is very unusual. It seems like it hasn't stopped raining since last July and we have only seen the first of the sun in early March. Obviously, this was not to our advantage in January and February when we were visited by not just one cyclone but two – Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle really let their presence felt and we experienced a lot of damage to our collection including a lot of the oak specimens. A huge thankyou to our staff, especially Anthea, who just keep going in terms of getting the arboretum back up and running. We had to close for sometime after Cyclone Gabrielle in mid-Feb but we are now back to business.

Eastwoodhill (EWH) is still looking amazing considering. Things have been very busy with the Friends committee and also the many other people who help us out along the way. Sue Kemp has a great band of ladies who keep our freezer full of goodies for our busy days. We have had many Christmas parties, ladies' lunches, cruise ships and many other catering duties. It always amazes me that someone pops up to help provide fabulous food and service. I wish to thank everyone who takes the time to help us out. As the Friends, we are the fundraising arm of EWH and every dollar we raise is used in the Arboretum.

Our big fundraiser over the past year has been updating the book "A Man's Tall Dream". Sheridan Gundry has done a superb job of curating the photographs and the text of the book and updating the history for the past 25 years. Thank you to all that have contributed to the book. This is a great present and available from the office.

I would also like to thank the staff at EWH, nothing is ever a problem! I also want to thank the wonderful volunteer garden ladies who keep the homestead garden looking amazing.

We have a new staff member to welcome – Marise Rennie. She has taken on the cleaning duties with gusto and is a dab hand in the kitchen. Her scones are fabulous and she will run a skeleton café when she is about. We will have the café open most weekends during the autumn. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for opening days.

We have many catering events cancelled due to the park being closed. If you wish to book a ladies lunch or a conference, there is no better place.

Our annual shop night was held pre-Christmas and again it was a great success. Marion has a great eye for stocking the shop. There are still plenty of goodies in the shop! Remember – Friends (members) of EWH receive 10% off the shop price!

The accommodation (we can sleep up to ten people) is always busy. A great place for a yoga retreat, a weekend in the country or just some peace and wellbeing!!

We sadly say goodbye to our fantastic Marion Nicholas who has led the office helm of Eastwoodhill for seven years. She has been an absolute godsend to me and the office in organising our many events and we cannot thank her enough. We are so sad to see her go but wish her well for her next adventure!

With Marion leaving we welcome two new staff members into the office. They will bring fresh new ideas and enthusiasm to EWH.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Eastwoodhill now that things have settled down and Gisborne is returning to

its normal self. We certainly are missing the visitors with the southern highway closed.

We are working on opening a bike track, this will cater for families. This will be a great way to see parts of the park that you don't normally go to. We will also have children's track for the little ones to cruise around.

We sadly have postponed the Teddy Bears' picnic and hopefully we will run this event in the spring.

Again, thank you to everyone who helps maintain and preserve one of the most unknown and precious parts of our New Zealand heritage, Eastwoodhill – our National Arboretum.

Kaye Williams
Chair, Friends of Eastwoodhill

From The Curator's Desk

Since our last newsletter we have farewelled Martin Weaver (Curator), Dan Taylor (Arborist), Marion Nicholas (Office Administrator) and Adam Greaves (Arboretum Maintenance). We wish them well in their new ventures and thank them for their service to the arboretum.

We have since recruited and welcomed onboard Denise Torres (Office Administrator), Caitlin Candy (Office Administrator), Daniel Robinson (Arboretum Maintenance) and Travis Dalton (Arboretum Maintenance). We welcome these new additions to staff and with the skills they bring to the team we will have promising outcomes for the organisation.

We have also sought funding for our projects so that some improvements can be done to our site and also develop some new programmes. Also, you will see a new look webpage that will enable payments for membership, bookings for accommodation, applications and bookings for events, bookings for tours, donations and sale of some of our wonderful visitor shop items.

We are progressing work with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association in the development of a campground which hopefully will increase visitors to the Arboretum as we will be able to welcome caravans which require a powered site.

Te Mara Rakaunui o Aotearoa (Eastwoodhill, the National Arboretum of New Zealand) was closed to visitation after both of the cyclones, but only for two weeks maximum as the staff alongside contractors and volunteers removed fallen giant trees and land slips from tracks to make it safe. After this initial period, we sought the services of skilled arborists to determine whether it was safe to open for visitation. We would like to acknowledge the volunteer services of Wintec staff arborists – Rob Graham and Andrew Harrison who came out and stayed for a week onsite while carrying out assessments. They were assisted by consultant arborist Ian Lawson and the result was that the Arboretum was open for business much earlier than anticipated. There was loss to some of our hundred-year-old trees.

Now the Arboretum enjoys continuous visitation by both locals and tour groups as per normal business.

We are looking forward to celebrating Matariki at the Arboretum this year. Look out for further information coming out soon.

Thanks,
Biran Singh
Eastwoodhill Curator



A Message from the Board

Eastwoodhill, Okahuatiu, must be close to unique in that it is open to the public for all but one day of the year.

That it is able to be so accessible is no mean feat, and testament to the wonderful team who make this possible.

We have a dedicated staff who go beyond normal expectation.

They ensure that the tasks involved in front of house presentation in terms of administration, cleaning, and making you feel welcome are performed in a seemingly effortless manner. I say seemingly, because despite it appearing effortless the staff carry out a huge range of jobs over long hours. A seven day a week operation calls for effort and compromise from all involved.

And then there is the job of ensuring the arboreal needs of the arboretum are met. Branches and trees fall down, standing trees need attention, replacement trees need propagating, tracks need attention. In general, the park has to be kept a safe place to visit, and this is a task that is never complete, it just keeps on going on. After the recent Cyclone Gabrielle's presence in Gisborne, we have experience more than ever the passion and support our staff put into the arboretum to clean up and keep the doors open.

In all of this the employed staff are supplemented by the volunteers. We simply could not operate without this hardy

band of people who perform a myriad of roles involved in events, gardening, and front office management. Some of them have been involved for many years, but a feature of them all is a passion for the place. In July there were 75 voluntary hours recorded, 95 in August, and rising to 180 in September as Spring increased the workload. And I would suggest that there were many more unrecorded.

And finally, there are the trustees who are all volunteers. On top of their 2 monthly meetings there are many jobs undertaken under the radar between meetings, with the Chairperson in particular being the closest involved and having high demands on her time.

In essence the voluntary input is the glue that binds it all together.

Last year, we were rocked when our Curator, Martin Weaver resigned. Personal family reasons meant Martin had to move his family to Western Australia. His move coincided with two other resignations for career advancement combined with the high cost of daily travel from Gisborne. We really appreciate the work that Martin put into Eastwoodhill and we wish him well in his new endeavour.

Recognising that replacing these valuable staff members was not going to be easy or quick, and understanding that getting replacements with the right "fit" for the organisation was important, the Trustees took the decision

to move to a temporary management structure. After advertising they engaged Thrive Spaces & Places, a consultancy group specialising in, amongst other things, parks and open spaces. Principal, Geoff Canham, has had a relationship with Eastwoodhill going back many years, and has a keen interest in the place. Biran Singh is providing the day-to-day management, sometimes on site and other times remotely. He and Geoff, with the ability to call on specialist advice from the rest of their team, are closely analysing our structure and operation, and formulating a plan to take us forward, increase our profile in the major

metropolitan and government areas, addressing our financial restraints, and ultimately help in filling the staff positions that are currently vacant.

In tandem with this we are addressing board of trustee succession and the gathering of all the documents pertinent to Eastwoodhill into one easily accessible place.

So, it is a busy time for staff, volunteers, and trustees, but what drives us all is a strong desire to enhance this legacy left to the nation.

Patrick Willock
Eastwoodhill Board Member

Thank you so much, to our Marion



A huge thanks goes to Eastwoodhill's loved staff member, Marion Nicholas.

Marion Nicholas is leaving us after seven years of working in various roles at Eastwoodhill including the General Manager role. She is leaving behind a large "hole" in expertise and experience which she has gained over the years.

Marion started in Sept 2016 in an administrator role when Dan and Monique Haliday were at the arboretum, and took over as Manager when they left. She worked with two curators – Dan Haliday and Martin Weaver – before Thrive came on board.

Speaking with Marion before her departure she said "I have really loved working at Eastwoodhill, and especially the people part – meeting folk from all around the world, NZ, and of course our own Gisborne district, and I have enjoyed making the gift shop a more appealing place to shop". Marion has certainly made an impact in the shop where she has increased revenue year on year through artfully choosing wonderful gifts, merchandise and fabulous household items that our guests love to take away from them. This all goes a long way to helping contribute to Eastwoodhill's costs.

Marion also mentioned "I have had some lovely work colleagues during my stint which is what you need in a work place as people help make a place". Marion made so many friends at Eastwoodhill, being a welcome smile when people arrived in the visitor centre and always lending a hand with the Friends' events and many other events which are held at Eastwoodhill. She organised a successful bus tour to Auckland and Hamilton for 50 people visiting the Sculptureum, Gibbs Sculpture Farm and Hamilton Gardens.

"It was so fun to do the bus trip to Gibbs Farm and I know we increased the Friends of Eastwoodhill after that trip" said Marion. "I have also been very lucky to live onsite and enjoy the solitude of no neighbours, being able to make the most of the serenity and birdlife which will make town a wee bit different. I'll miss the Quail families".

The whole team at Eastwoodhill will miss Marion's work ethic, her friendly nature and of course her wonderful cackle. She will be welcome at Eastwoodhill forever and hope we see her around when she comes to visit. We wish you all the best on your next adventure Marion!



Thrive Spaces & Places Take the Helm

Thrive Spaces & Places has taken on managing the curatorial role for Eastwoodhill after the departure of curator Martin Weaver. Thrive has had a long relationship with Eastwoodhill, with previous CEO Dana Kirkpatrick having worked with owner Geoff Canham in the past.

Thrive Spaces & Places has over 80 years of national and international experience in parks, recreation and tourism projects, and planning. Thrive is a specialist parks and recreation consultancy focusing on strategic and management solutions, project and programme management, planning, assessments and evidence work for agencies and communities, primarily throughout Aotearoa. They pride themselves on ensuring nature has a voice in any development and that any output or outcome is future focused. Thrive adds value to the Eastwoodhill organisation as their team has senior management and extensive technical and planning experience under their current umbrella.

Biran Singh is a Thrive Spaces & Places Project Manager and will take over the day-to-day management of Eastwoodhill.

Biran was a keynote speaker at the 1982 World Parks Congress in Bali, Indonesia – where he looked into the new adaptations that could assist 'Conservation' in Oceania. This set the tone for his career, where his main areas of focus include assisting with the development of long-term goals and vision setting for organisations, planning delivery mechanisms, and asset management. This has included provision for visitor services, extensive revegetation programmes and community events. A very competent strategic thinker and planner, Biran has utilised this throughout his career and adds value to the Thrive Team with his considerable project management skill set.

Biran is well known for having a “can do” attitude. This includes a commitment to personal or organisational goals, and going the extra mile to achieve them. Biran has previously been the NZ Recreation Aotearoa Northern Region chairman.

Biran has been involved in Species Recovery plan projects including assisting the building of captive breeding facilities for crested iguanas and peregrine falcons.

Eastwoodhill Memories

Written by, Phillida Eivers

Many years later I find myself living right next door to Eastwoodhill. The farm Mike and I purchased opposite Eastwoodhill, between Spencer and Mary Bushe and Randall Sherratt – running all the way back to Tangihau at the back.

Sadly, all these farms are now covered in pine trees which now have become a ghastly monoculture. Ours was the first I'm embarrassed to say, but after the devastation of the land after Cyclone Bola we felt it needed to be stitched together and quickly. We had lost around thirty percent of our topsoil.

The Christmas after Cyclone Bola the district had lost its communal hall where we met for playgroup, school and community gatherings and most importantly the end of year assembly and community Christmas party. Where were we to hold it? We desperately needed to get together as a community as we had been through such a difficult period of stress. I asked my father if we could hold it at Eastwoodhill. "That's never been done before, we can't have alcohol" and more resistance was felt, but Dad overrode it all and said it was for the good of the community and so Eastwoodhill became a home for community events. The first ever marquee was erected on the top lawn by the house. Neighbours and locals from all

round the district came and we had a wonderful evening of commune. "I never knew this existed!" many of them said. How could this be?! Not knowing that this jewel existed right in the middle of our district where many drove BY daily but never IN.

What a shame and what a beginning of the new open-door approach to our wonderful natural playground!

And finally, after yet another lapse of twenty years or more I find myself back with my familiar EWH, but in another role, that as a committee member of the Friends of EWH. How to keep up with the changes and bring about changes...

Cooking, not a favourite pastime of mine, but the TASTY LEAF girls have wonderful recipes and camaraderie. Covid has brought about more changes and pluses to EWH. We have baby boomers looking around the country for things to do – and so they come to our door and we feed them. They bike in, come for lunch, stay a night or two, we have birthday parties, weddings, yoga retreats, business retreats – what extraordinary developments from the early years when we first 'gardened' there as a family...

Everything changes and yet everything stays the same. The continued plug and drive to make money out of our jewel – EASTWOODHILL

To read previous memories, please see previous newsletters on our website.



Woodlands Estate

Historic Homestead & Gardens

Est. 1872

Originally a 98,000-acre property surveyed following the conclusion of Waikato land wars, the land was purchased by Piako Swamp Company (aka NZ Land Association) with the understanding the purchaser will improve the peat swamp land, develop roads, and build a drainage system. Surveyed land was also designated to Maori in the area.

Woodlands Homestead was surrounded by a village of farm buildings, large stables (said to be used for the recovery of horse's home from the war), woolshed, bakery, blacksmith, waterwheel and joinery shop, butchery, and extensive stock yards.

Where there is a beautiful home, so too should there be a beautiful garden, The Homestead was built (1880) for the first manager Henry Reynolds, with approx. 3 acres of the property carefully planted in a wide variety of trees and shrubs thought to be supplied by the Reynolds family nursery, just out of Cambridge, many of which were hybrid specimens that the Reynolds imported from England. Mr Reynolds moved on to found Anchor butter at his newly built dairy factory close to Cambridge.

Today the Estate has 15 acres of garden surrounding the Homestead. The gardens have a 5-star Garden of Significance rating. Hamilton gardens mastermind Peter Sergel created a design to extend the gardens to the size they are today, with themed areas, including a lake with Monet styled bridges. Many of the original trees and shrubs are still flourishing today.

Most notable are the:

- a. London Plane (*Platanus x Acerifolia*)
- b. Tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- c. Brown Barrel Gum (*Eucalyptus fastigata*)
- d. Pear (*Pyrus communis*)
- e. Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)
- f. Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)
- g. Antique Camellias; Helenor, Bronocha, Lowii and the unusual Thompsonii/Thompsoni Rosea
- h. Many Oaks and Ash trees.

Entering the gardens from the car park you are greeted by 2 magnificent Magnolias, *Magnolia macrophylla* and *Magnolia grandiflora*. Then onto the Homestead's original

Wisteria, which in the past dominated the front and side verandas, now safely supported, and carefully pruned.

Camellias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons (one of which has a fragrance) feature extensively throughout the gardens. A Camellia specimen garden, currently undergoing maintenance, was created in 1995. Many were donated by Camellia enthusiasts.

Many of the notable tree's tower over the many developed lawns around the gardens. The Brown Barrell Gum greets you as you drive down the Estate's driveway. The Tulip and London Plane tower over the Long Lawn extending out from the Homestead. The still producing Pear trees are the only survivors from the original orchard and vegetable gardens now shelter the gardener's compound. Finally there are many of the original Oaks and Ash trees forming an Oak Glade the most northern of the lawns.

The Monet Lake, formed by the damming at one end of the existing gully, has two Monet styled bridges. Planting around the lake is a mixture of natives, ferns, iris's, willow, and other exotic plants; i.e. 3 weeping mulberry's, dogwoods, and horsetail restio's.





The Estates Timeline:

- 1872** Land purchased by Piako Swamp Company (98,000 acres)
- 1880** The Victorian styled Homestead built for manager Henry Reynolds.
- 1885** John Gordon takes over managing the Estate. Johns' generosity and community spirit led to Hukanui being renamed Gordonton in his honour.
- 1902** Roughly 27,000 acres of swamp converted to farmland
- 1905** 2,400 acres surrounding the Homestead sold to the Riddell Family.
- WWI** Following WWI, the estate is divided into 300 acres lots and gifted to Riddell sons.
- 1927** Don & Irene Riddell take up residence at the Woodlands Homestead.
- 1976** Following the death of Don (1962) & Irene (1983), the property is bequeathed to Presbyterian Support
- 1988** The Homestead and surrounding 15 acres is accepted by the Waikato County (now District)

Council and a Trust formed to administer Homestead and gardens. Extensive work was then carried out in both the Homestead and Gardens to make it accessible for public use.

The Estate is an extremely popular venue for weddings and is suitable for all types of events including meetings, special occasions, seminars or team building days, the Wisteria Room can hold from 10 to 200 people comfortably. Utilising parts of the idyllic gardens allows space for more people and opportunities, for example, many businesses have hired the Cricket Oval for team building events.

Nestled within the Estate is Woodlands' Garden Grove Café, this delightful café is situated on the Cricket oval. The café is licensed and open 7 days, providing both cabinet and al carte menu options. Visit their website to book. www.woodlandsgardengrove.co.nz

The Estate is open daily from 10am, while the gardens are free, there is a \$3 entry to explore the Homestead. To find out more, visit our website www.woodlands.co.nz or email info@woodlands.co.nz

Tasty Leaf recipes



Cauliflower Mac and Cheese

Loved by Henry Jefferd

Ingredients

1½ cups (240g) macaroni
1 small head cauliflower (600g) (leaves trimmed and cut into small florets)
1½ cups (375ml) milk (creamy for poaching)
½ cup (40g) finely grated parmesan
Sea salt and cracked pepper (to taste)
1 pinch ground nutmeg (optional)

Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Cook the pasta in a large saucepan of salted boiling water for eight minutes or until it's almost soft.

Place the cauliflower and milk in a large saucepan over low heat and bring to a simmer (slow bubbles). Cover with a tight-fitting lid and simmer gently for 8-10 minutes or until the cauliflower is soft. Allow to cool slightly. Using a hand-held stick blender, blend until smooth.

Place a colander in the sink and carefully pour in the pasta to drain. Add the drained pasta to the pan with the cauliflower, then sprinkle in half the cheddar and half the Parmesan. Add salt, pepper and the nutmeg and stir to combine.

Place in a large baking tray and sprinkle with the remaining cheeses, place in an oven tray and bake for 20 minutes or until golden and crunchy. Allow to cool before serving.

Crushed Orange and Almond Cake Nottingham (GF)

With love from Ginny Hogarth

Ingredients

2 organic oranges...well washed
250g caster sugar
250 g butter softened
6 eggs...separated
300g ground almonds
1 tablespoon baking powder
Icing sugar to dust
thick creamy yoghurt or cream fraiche to serve

Method

Heat oven to 200°C
Cook the oranges, place in pan cover generously with cold water, put on the lid, bring to the boil and simmer until completely soft, about 1 hour. Cool before cutting them in half and removing pips.

Heat oven to 200 degrees celcius, butter a 24cm springform cake tin and line bottom with a round of baking paper.

Put oranges in food processor with sugar butter egg yolks almond baking pdr and pulse until well combined.

Put egg whites in a scrupulously clean bow and whisk until soft peaks form, and a droopy peak forms when it drops from a spoon.

Gently fold orange mixture into egg whites in 3 batches until the 2 mixtures are evenly combined.

Pour into cake tin and place in oven and bake for 10mins then reduce heat to 160c until cakes pulls away from cake tin sides.

Place on wire rack for 10mins before unmoulding.

Dust lavishly with icing sugar and enjoy.

You can also make this cake with 2 large lemons.

Book Launch

THURSDAY 29th JUNE 2023

See Facebook for more details!

Come along and see our beautiful revised version
of

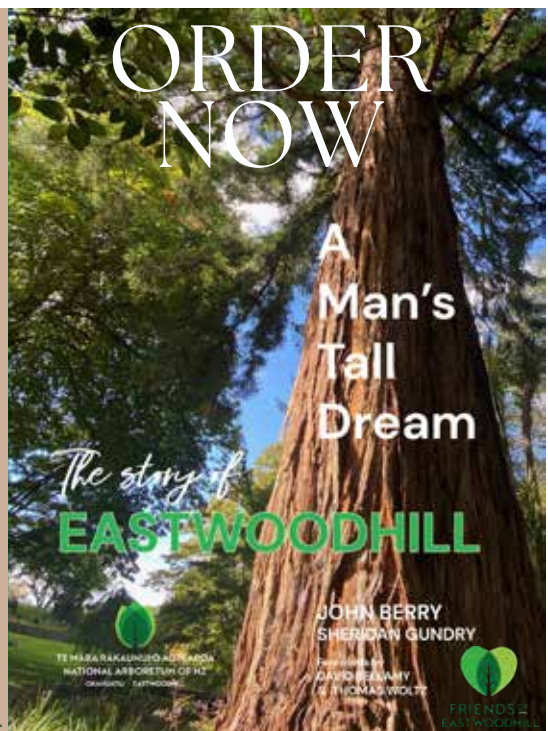
A Tall Man's Dream.

The story of Eastwoodhill.

by John Berry
and revised by Sheridan Gundry

produced by The Friends of Eastwoodhill

Drinks and nibbles available.



Matariki at the Arboretum

“Houpapa”

A CreativeNZ Indigenous Exchange International project.

The ‘Houpapa’ project endeavours to gather indigenous artists, share, create, promote, and foster the art of indigenous sculpture forms using mixed media in a symposium context. To share indigenous knowledges, space and processes within a public space followed by a public exhibition/gifting and or auction/sales process.

Who:

Indigenous Exchange CreativeNZ, Te Maara Rākaunui o Aotearoa, Te Tairāwhiti Arts Festival, Te Whānau a Kai, Tā Derek Lardelli & Toihoukura.

10 selected indigenous practitioners (first iteration made up of 9 from Aotearoa and 1 International.)

When:

Matariki 10–16th July 2023

Why:

To share and participate in indigenous knowledges concerning sculptural artforms, waiata and karakia from Te Ao Māori and the indigenous world. To gather, to create and exhibit and participate at the conclusion of the symposium, in a public setting.

Where:

Eastwoodhill, Te Maara Rākaunui o Aotearoa, The National Arboretum of NZ, Ngātapa, Gisborne NZ

In partnership with



Autumn



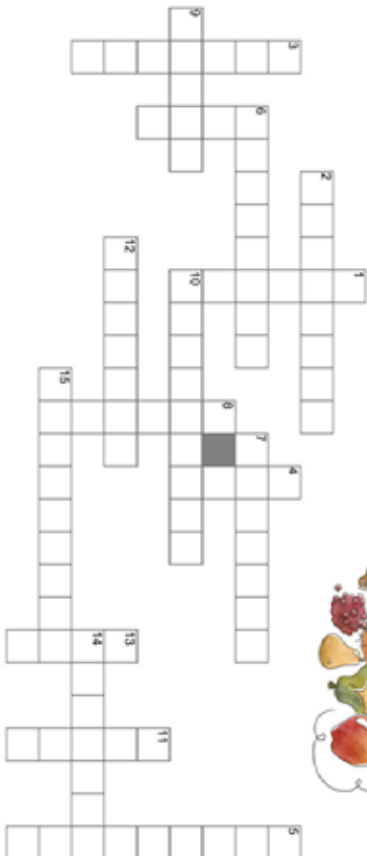
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SCARF APPLE BOOTS
 TREE FALL RAKE
 ACORN PUMPKIN PIE
 HAY SWEATER LEAF



Autumn Crossword



- ACROSS**
- Last month of Autumn
 - An organized day or period of celebration.
 - The process or period of gathering in crops.
 - A variety of this fruit is marketed as "Autumn Glory"
 - Likes to store and eat nuts
 - Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter are the four
 - Another Autumn month
 - First month of Autumn
- DOWN**
- What falls from a tree in Autumn.
 - You can use it to make a pie or for canning
 - You can gather fallen leaves with this
 - Used to scare the crows from fields
 - Another name for Autumn
 - Autumn leaves color
 - Fruit of the oak tree
 - Vegetable that grows in stalks

SEASONS	CORN	LEAVES	SQUIRRELS
OCTOBER	PUMPKIN	SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER
SCARECROW	FALL	FESTIVAL	HARVEST
ORANGE	RAKE	ACORN	APPLE

Update from the Prop Shed

To date we have had, and are continuing to have, great success in propagating our *Fraxinus* (ash) species.

We have concentrated on this species in particular as they are a keystone tree species throughout temperate Europe and it is currently under serious threat of what is commonly known as 'ash die-back'. This is an invasive fungal disease that has been described as a "new species" *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. This disease first emerged from Poland in the 1990's and has rapidly spread through most eastern, central and northern European countries.

Fraxinus excelsior or common European ash are found in many different eco zones, such as the UK, Turkey, Denmark,

Italy, Armenia and the Netherlands, to name a few. There are very few ash trees that show any resistance to *H. fraxineus* but there are enough to call for rapid germplasm collection in efforts to establish breeding programs for resistance.

So alongside those efforts, we too are "doing our bit" and boosting all our *Fraxinus* numbers, so who knows...maybe one day we will be able to send seed, seedlings, or even tissue culture to other countries who are losing their native forests. Much like our native Kauri, which are in danger from the 'Kauri die-back', it is very sad to think just how devastating this situation can be.



Cyclone Season it Seems...

Cyclone Hale visited the arboretum on the 25th of January and left quite a trail in its wake. We lost a number of larger trees from our collection and as a side effect we have a great deal of other damaged trees to deal with as well. One of the species we lost was from our “endangered” collection *Ulmas Americana* (American Elm) but we do have two others in our collection so that has pushed forward our propagation plan for that species. It was our larger oaks that sustained the brunt of the damage as they have fallen completely over – the pin oak, scarlet oak and a number of our red oaks are now to be “processed”.

Our soil type contains a large amount of pipe clay, which when sodden becomes very much like wet cement so that then does not give the tree roots much to hold on to, and we had already had an extraordinary amount of rain fall, leaving our soil saturated.

On the 14th of February we had another cyclone hit us, Cylone Gabrielle, which caused even more damage. But overall we were very lucky – we had no major damage to our buildings or main infrastructure and our water supply was not affected either. We closed our doors and waited for our safety reports, before tidying up again before we let members of the public back on to our grounds. We still have a number of areas that need cleaning up but for the most part I think we are doing a great job pushing forward and are hoping for great things over our beautiful autumn season.

Anthea Dalton



Volunteering at Eastwoodhill

In March 2023 I volunteered for a rewarding week's work at the arboretum, the second time I have wwoofed here. Home for me is the small but vibrant town of Denmark-Koorabup, south coast Western Australia where I am a projects coordinator for Green Skills, an environmental NGO (<https://greenskills.org.au/>). For several decades my work has linked to tree planting programs for landcare, farm-forestry and eco-restoration. My main involvement is with an ambitious landscape conservation program called Gondwana Link (<https://gondwanalink.org/>) which is working towards connecting and restoring healthy bushland across a thousand kilometers of the lower south west of WA, a threatened global biodiversity hotspot. One site I manage is a small arboretum called the Gondwana Sculpture garden which features a range of species illustrative of southern Gondwana connections, including six members of the iconic Araucaria genus, including Bunya, Monkey Puzzle and Parana pines (a link to this garden at:

<https://sanctuarydenmark.wordpress.com/about/the-landscape-around-the-sanctuary/>).

At EWH I helped out getting tracks and focus sites cleared of debris and presentable again, after Eastland's

challenging wet summer I was also thrilled to join in planting 12 Parana pines (*Araucaria angustifolia*), a critically endangered tree from southern Brazil on the scenic highest ridge of EWH.

The staff at EWH were great to work with, and I thank Biran, Anthea, Travis, Dan, Merise and Rosie especially for making my visit both memorable and enjoyable.

It is such a privilege to be part of helping care for a national treasure like Eastwoodhill. It is not only a place of international scientific and conservation importance, but also of stunning beauty. In reflecting on the extreme climatic events that have affected Aotearoa in recent times, I think there is an important insight to be learnt on the connection between diversity and resilience. It is vital that we bring greater diversity of tree species (both native and introduced) into our agricultural and forestry landscapes as we all work towards greater sustainability in the face of an uncertain future. Eastwoodhill has a vital role to play in this transition.

If anyone is visiting south coast Western Australia, do get in touch and come and check out our eco projects!

**Nga mihi,
Basil Schur**



Guthrie-Smith Arboretum

South of Eastwoodhill on the Gisborne to Napier highway is the Guthrie-Smith Trust's arboretum. The arboretum is situated adjacent to Lake Tutira about 30 minutes' drive north of Napier. The arboretum has been steadily established since 2002 and is planted by geographical regions of the world and features many rare tree species. The property also has a popular education centre for school camps and outdoor pursuits for mainly primary and intermediate school students. The facilities also include activities such as high ropes, kayaking etc.

The arboretum is open to the public on Sundays from October through to May. There is also a very popular "book a bach" (Cowman's Cottage) available year round with great views of the lake and arboretum.

Like Eastwoodhill, spring with the blossoms and autumn with so many spectacular colours are very popular times to visit.

The Guthrie-Smith Trust is a charitable trust reliant on philanthropy for the property's development. It was established by the daughter of Herbert Guthrie-Smith, the world renowned naturalist and author of Tutira – A New Zealand Sheep Station. The book reveals his observations and then his concerns in relation to the effects of clearing the land for farming. Those concerns identified so long ago are now very much the focus of some of our environmental issues today – he was clearly "way ahead of his time". He removed livestock from the hill face behind his homestead to facilitate and observe its reversion – this area is known as the Hanger and after over 100 years is now native bush and preserved in perpetuity, by way of a QEII covenant. The station was a very large property comprising both owned and leased land – at one stage involving over 60,000 acres. At the time the trust was established the property was a typical hill country farm of approximately 2000 acres grazing sheep and beef cattle. After the Regional Council purchased approximately half of the property, on the eastern side of Lake Tutira, they established Tutira Country Park.

In 2018 on the 11th November (Armistice Day) a block of land, adjacent and to the north of the trust's property, was very generously gifted to the trust by Stuart and Alison Riden and is known as The Sanctuary. This gift ensures that virtually the whole perimeter of Lake Tutira is preserved from possible developments in perpetuity. The trust has carried out some planting on this land and the major focus currently is the restoration and development of a wetland which will assist the water quality of Lake Tutira and provide further educational opportunities.

For those interested in trees and the outdoors a trip around the east coast incorporating the three arboreta of Eastwoodhill, Hackfalls and Guthrie-Smith, can confidently be recommended as a "bucket list" item.

Cyclone Gabrielle Impact

The Arboretum together with Tutira and several other districts was hit hard by the cyclone on February 14th. All the buildings themselves were unaffected although a major slip occurred close to the Book-a Bach. A geo-tech report is awaited. The water supply was destroyed and all dams either filled with silt or were "blown out". All tracks through the Hanger were destroyed which precludes some Education Centre activities within it. Some northern faces within the arboretum suffered significant slips while other area plantings were largely unaffected. The Sanctuary block wetland project will not proceed for this year at least.

It is anticipated that Guthrie-Smith Tutira will be fully operational again for schools in the latter half of 2023 and subject to the Napier to Wairoa road being reopened. The Trust is reliant on philanthropy for any developments and in view of the cyclone's impact donations are of course sought and welcomed and can be made via the website www.guthriesmith.org.nz






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