

Friends of
Eastwoodhill
Newsletter
Autumn 2020



Gisborne
Eastwoodhill
National Arboretum of New Zealand

www.eastwoodhill.org.nz

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www.eastwoodhill.org.nz

Visitor Centre - Opening Hours

Weekdays 8am – 4.30pm

Weekends and public holidays 9am – 4pm

Eastwoodhill Trust Board

Jane Williams (Chair)

Peter Jackman

Susan Kemp

Patrick Willock

Pru Roberts

Philip Cave

Eastwoodhill Autumn **Board Report**

Written by Susan Kemp

Firstly we'd like to welcome to the Board our newest member Philip Cave, who is the Department of Conservation representative. Philip farms in Ngatapa and is a member of the Cave family who have farmed in the area for over 100 years.

"I came on to the board two years ago to replace my brother Marcus who had been the Williams family representative for 17 years. I have big boots to fill! Obviously our association with EWH goes back a long way. My early memories of EWH are of family trips for working bees – namely slashing thorny acacia which grew all through the area where the Memorial Ball and grassed area is now. I think as teenagers we weren't exactly enthralled by the occasion but it no doubt gave us all an appreciation for trees and nature!"

The Board are currently in the process of looking into our branding and how we market ourselves as New Zealand's National Arboretum. We are finding that it is important that we have an appropriate logo and branding as we begin to approach national and

international businesses for funding and support. As you are all well aware the increasing costs of maintaining the arboretum is a constant challenge to the Board and staff, hence the need to be more professional in our outlook.

EWH recently received an extremely generous bequest from the estate of Les McGreevy. Les had a long association with EWH. He was a very successful local businessman and benefactor to the district. He was a very humble man and donated to EWH on many occasions always with a project in mind and usually donated through Rotary as he liked the anonymity. The Board is looking to develop the Links Road as per the 100 year Master Plan with his bequest. The EWH family will be eternally grateful for such a generous gift. The Links Road will be there for generations to come as a memorial to Les.

As a member of the Williams Family I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the Friends and garden volunteers who make an immense contribution to EWH and help to continue and enhance the legacy and vision of both Douglas Cooke and Bill Williams.

At this time when New Zealand and the world are being challenged by a pandemic we hope that EWH will continue to ground us all and remind us of the peace and tranquillity of nature. We hope that everyone remains safe and well.



Manager Report

Hi everyone,

It has been a busy summer at Eastwoodhill and our visitor numbers have increased this year over the summer period which is great to see.

We have had 10 cruise ships visit the Arboretum this season which has been fantastic which has generated an extra \$15,000 income to the Arboretum which is always welcome. Also, we had increased school visits during spring due to Margot working with the Museum and this initiative bought out schools that had been unable to visit previously.

Spring was busy with our bus trip to Gibbs Sculpture Farm, and Martin, Jane and I visiting the National Arboretum of Canberra. This was an interesting visit as they have large resources with a young population of trees, while we have old established trees without the resources. Both have different challenges, but this summer we shared a lack of water.

The kitchen in our accommodation area has been updated and this is a welcome new addition and smartens up this area immensely. We are also awaiting the erection of an Archgola to cover a portion of the Courtyard which will give a sheltered area during inclement weather. Hopefully this will inspire someone to take on the café as a business. We have been looking since last spring for someone to take this on but unfortunately we have had no joy in sourcing anyone for this role, which is sad as we get enquiries every day for a café and we feel if we get the right people this would be a destination.

Whilst writing my story for this newsletter, a British couple Peter and Katie Foot came to visit the arboretum and it turned out that Katie was a relative of Douglas Cook – he had been her grandfather's first cousin. We had a great chat and discovered not only this family connection but that her grandfather, Sir Patrick Ashley Cooper had bought a property in a village called Hexton, about 40 miles north of London in the 1930s where the de Lautour family had lived throughout the 19th century.



The newly updated kitchen area.



Katie and Marion

One of their sons, Cecil Albert de Lautour, had emigrated to New Zealand and ended up in Gisborne where he bought some land and called it.... yes, you've got it – Hexton, just off the Back Ormond Road – what a small world it is! C.A. de Lautour and his wife had 17 children and some of their descendants still live here. In fact, Louise Goodhue, one of C.A.'s great-grandchildren, is a volunteer at Eastwoodhill.

Peter and Katie were delighted to explore Eastwoodhill – a first visit for Peter, though Katie had been here in 1978 on her first visit to New Zealand, when she came to discover the New Zealand Hexton.

Katie's late father, Jim Cooper, had also been a keen dendrologist and had planted a (much smaller) arboretum at Hexton in the UK – and like his ancestor Douglas, we were told he also liked to garden without clothes on!! Obviously, a family trait...sadly he never got to visit Eastwoodhill.

What a pleasure to meet Katie and Peter.

Eastwoodhill was very grateful indeed to receive a large bequest from a long standing supporter of the Arboretum, this has enabled us to pursue some long awaited projects and update some machinery.

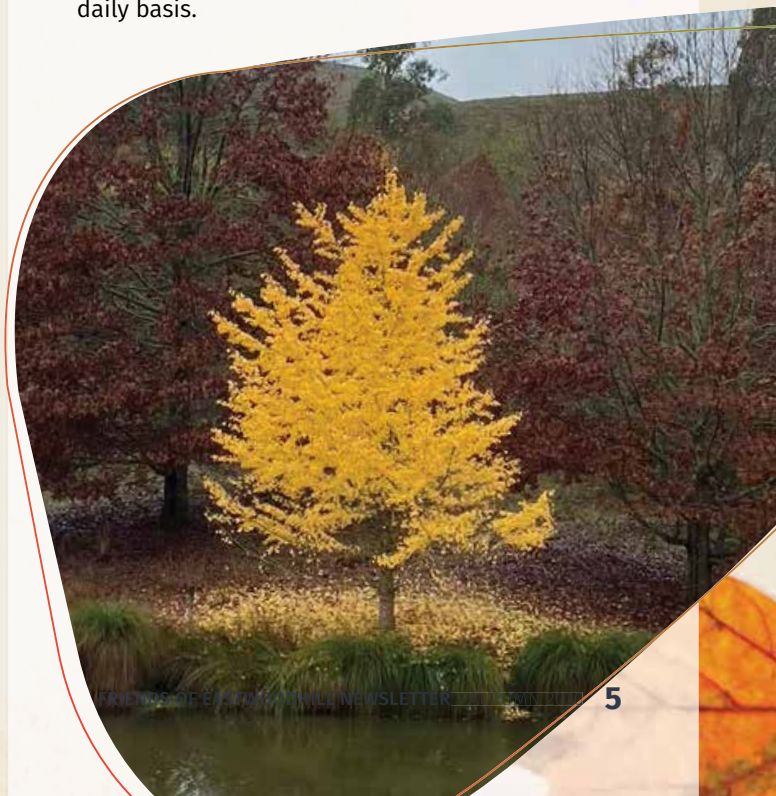
Big thanks to the volunteers that have been keeping the Visitor Centre staffed over the weekends – we appreciate your help very much.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to Eastwoodhill once we reach Level 2 of the New Zealand Covid lock-down stages. We miss our overseas visitors and hope they will be back with us safe and well in the future. We encourage people to please keep up your memberships as we really need the support now that we are missing our Autumn income which is such a large part of our viability. We will only be able to get through this with the support of our wonderful members. Thanks to all of you for your regular support.

MARION NICHOLAS, MANAGER

Autumn Update

The gates of Eastwoodhill have been closed for the duration of the New Zealand level four and three of the Covid-19 lock-down and so everyone missed the wonderful changes that we are so well-known for. The gates of Eastwoodhill have been closed for the duration of the New Zealand level four and three of the Covid-19 lock-down and so everyone missed the wonderful changes that we are so well-known for. The printing of this newsletter was also delayed by the lockdown so we were able to slip some photos in for you to see for yourself. The colour is still going strong and the stress of the prolonged drought hasn't changed the colourful seasonal brilliance of nature's display. The colour and day to day reduction of the dominant chlorophyll within the leaves, reveals the carotenoids and anthocyanins. carotenoids produce orange and yellow colours and the Anthocyanins the fiery reds, purples, deep oranges and bronzes synonymous of our oaks and maples. The carotenoids are masked throughout the spring and summer months by the chlorophyll, which absorbs light in the red (long wavelength) and the blue (short wavelength) regions of the visible light spectrum. Green light is not absorbed but reflected, making the plant appear green. Anthocyanins are formed later in the summer, with a breakdown of sugars and interactions with phosphate. With these levels of pigments changing on a daily basis we are fortunate to watch this fabulous change on a daily basis.



Curator Report



“For rain, for rain the parched lands cry,
Reproachful to the cloudless sky.
The hot white fields in light are blinking,
The rivers in their beds are shrinking.”

An excerpt from 'Drought' –
Poem by Francis William Bourdillon

Although we are not desperate for water, this dry spell has highlighted the significant issue of water management and retention. This dry spell really started over the winter, with an annual average in the region of 1200mm per annum, and to have only received 750mm last year is really showing in certain parts of the arboretum. With many of the ponds and dams lower than we would like, a focus will be placed on increasing holding capacity throughout the arboretum. The photos show Rock Point Pond at November and February, the drop in water level is very obvious.

The dry spell has not affected the collection too much, although most of the Magnolias have lost or are losing their leaves earlier than usual, not to panic though as their buds are set and I'm sure they will be fine for next year.....a series of similar events over the next few years may be more of a significant issue.

Some of the images from the Australian bush fires have been really harrowing to watch. We have been reviewing our processes, procedures and equipment to ensure

that we are fit for purpose should a fire ever take hold here. We have also been working with Ray Dever and Pat Anderson from the Gisborne Fire Brigade and the voluntary Patutahi Brigade to ensure familiarisation for their crews and increasing our knowledge. Many thanks for their advice, help and assistance, it has been very useful.

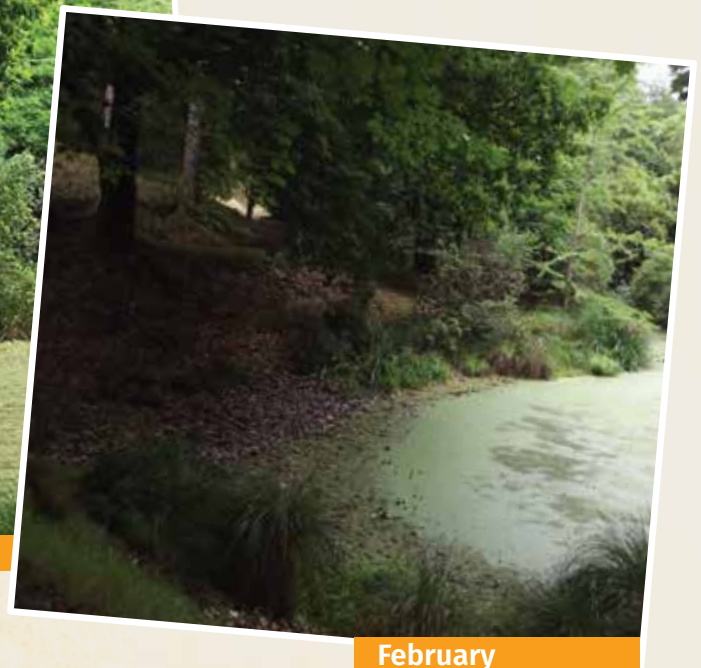
As the dams get lower (they are used for watering the Homestead Gardens) and our grey water is used at the Douglas Cook Visitor Centre (including the Pavilion) you may notice a rather pungent aroma around. The stagnant water in these dams is starting to be churned and used through the water system. No major issue though as our drinking water is sourced and filtered via alternative systems. Apologies for the odour, but it is very useful for us and the gardens.

We are looking forward to getting back to normal and welcoming our wonderful visitors back as well as some much needed rain. Lets hope its sooner rather than later.

MARTIN WEAVER, CURATOR



November



February

Board Introduction

We would like to welcome

Philip Cave to the Board of Eastwoodhill. Philip is a well-respected member of our neighbouring area and of the Gisborne farming community.

I have been appointed to the Eastwoodhill Board as the representative for the Department of Conservation.

I have lived in Ngatapa all my life and am the third generation to have farmed Mangatoitoi Station. I am married to Maree and we have three children.

I was actually married at Eastwoodhill; becoming only the second person to do so at the time. I do remember that it was a very dry autumn and I was paranoid about fires from cigarettes. I didn't want to be known as the cause of EWH demise!

It is my hope that I can help add a local flavour to the team. EWH is a very important part of the Ngatapa community and it is something that we are all immensely proud of.

PHILIP CAVE



Lady Anne Berry

Victoria Medal of Honour

11 December 1919 - 8 September 2019

Written by Rodney Faulkner, past Board Member of Eastwoodhill representing NZ Farm Forestry Assn.

Lady Anne was born at

Wolterton Hall in Norfolk, England to Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford and his wife Emily. When she was about eight the family moved to Rosemoor, a salmon fishing lodge with 16 ha. of farmland in North Devon. When her father died in 1931 she inherited the property and continued to live there with her mother. They made several lengthy visits to New Zealand during the 1930's as the carefree way of life suited her nature. In 1939 she married Eric Palmer a Colonel in the territorial army and they moved around during the war.

By 1959 she was starting to take a serious interest in the large garden at Rosemoor and through the various plant enthusiasts she met, including Collingwood "Cherry" Ingram, started building up the plant collection that her garden became so well known for. She travelled widely and collected plant material from around the world. In the 1960's she joined both the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and the International Dendrology Society (IDS) and was soon elected Chair of the Tours Committee of the IDS. It was during one of these tours to New Zealand in 1977 that she first visited Hackfalls and Eastwoodhill and of course met Bob Berry.

In 1980 her husband died and in 1988 she offered Rosemoor, her home and garden, to the RHS. By this time the property was highly regarded as one of the finest gardens in the South of England and had developed a large and comprehensive mail order business. In 1986 Lady Anne was awarded the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour and in 1990 she received an Honorary Doctorate of Science at the University of Exeter.

In 1990 she led another IDS tour to New Zealand and of course Hackfalls was on the agenda. Bob's wife by this time had died and he and Anne married later that year, a friendship fostered through the love of plants! Bob had been involved with Eastwoodhill for many years and his knowledge and understanding of the collection was greatly appreciated by the Board.



Lady Anne would often visit the Arboretum with Bob so this was the time we started to get to know her and to realise what a knowledgeable person she was.

She developed the garden at Hackfalls and soon started propagating all manner of interesting plants. She supported Bob as he developed the Hackfalls collection of Mexican oaks and other rare specimens the property became so well known for.

During the time I knew her, she often mentioned her old home and garden at Rosemoor and retained a keen interest in its progress under the RHS. It gave her great satisfaction to know that the property was appreciated by so many visitors, over 250,000 who visited in 2019. What a wonderful horticultural legacy she has left the world, both in England and also in New Zealand at Hackfalls.

**Thank you Anne for
all your enthusiasm
and advice.**

“The Man Who Climbs Trees:”

A Memoir. By James Aldred

Book Review

Written by Rodney Faulkner

James Aldred grew up in

England not far from the New Forest and spent much of his time as a teenager exploring and getting to know the trees that grew there. When he left school, he studied photography in London but would return to the New Forest with a climbing mate at weekends to hone their skills. He eventually found his favourite tree - an ancient and wide crowned oak which he named “Goliath”. He would sling his hammock in its branches and spend the night cocooned high in the canopy with only the owls for company.

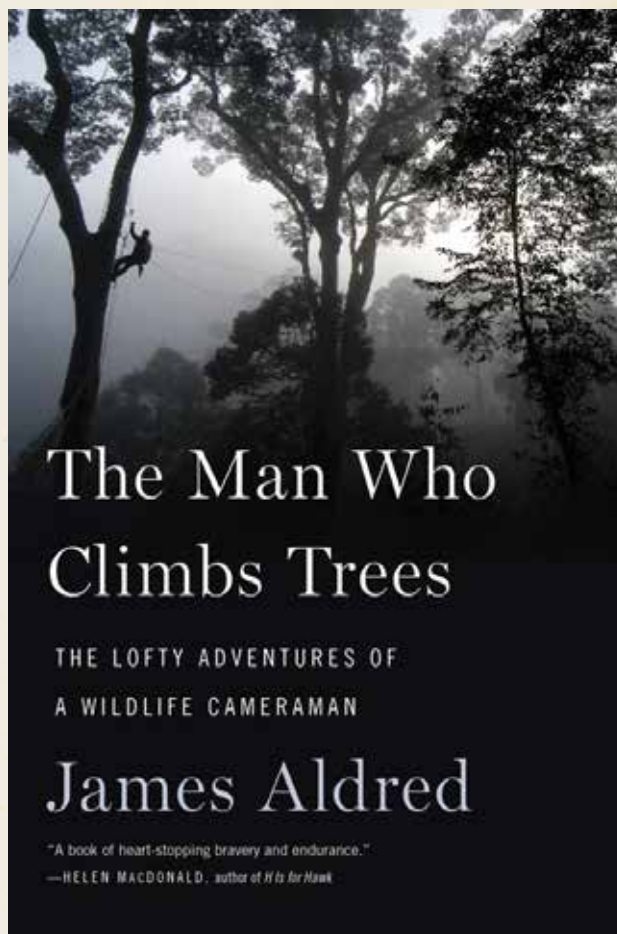
I have often marvelled at the photography when watching some of the excellent wildlife films we see from time to time but had never given much thought as to how they had been filmed. In 1998, James with his climbing skills as well as his recently acquired expertise with his camera, joined a small team in the rain forests of Borneo. His task was to assist the camera man who was filming orangutans high up in the canopy feeding on wild figs. This was a challenge given the incredible heat and humidity, but James was in his element and this was to become his life.

These days he travels the world climbing the forest giants that we see on television from the comfort of our living rooms. As a freelance wildlife cameraman for the National Geographic as well as the BBC he is often required to get the likes of Sir David Attenborough high up in the canopy of some rainforest giant without dropping him!

This sometimes requires many days tramping through the forest looking for a suitable tree, then installing the climbing ropes and rigging and finally getting the film crew up in the canopy for what might result in only a few minutes of usable film.

His botanical descriptions of some of the trees he works on I found fascinating.

One such species in the Amazon forest was the brazil nut tree *Bertholletia excelsa* or castana tree. He describes in some detail the tree, its massive nuts and the method of



harvesting and drying them. Closer to home, he writes about climbing a gigantic Eucalyptus regnans growing in the Kinglake National Park in Victoria. A true forest giant and the mission was to climb and film the measuring of this tree.

This involved spending the night in a hammock at 260 feet then continuing to the very top at two hundred and eighty-nine feet.

Sadly, in 2009, this tree along with so many others was burnt during the devastating Kinglake fire.

I found this book very readable, full of interesting information and obviously written by someone who has a great love and admiration for the environment in which he works. It is just a pity it does not include some photos of the memorable trees he has come to know or the people he has encountered in the remote forests of the world.



Eastwoodhill takes bus tour to celebrated gardens

What a pleasure it was to

host those that joined Margot, Anthea and myself on a most enjoyable weekend for the first Eastwoodhill Bus Trip which was held the last weekend of August heading to the Gibbs Sculpture Farm on the Kaipara Harbour in Auckland. We also visited the Sculptureum Gardens in Matakana and the Hamilton Gardens during this excursion. The tour was organised as a fundraiser by the Arboretum staff, and although we were a bit worried about getting a full bus, we made the numbers so a HUGE thanks to everyone that decided to come and supported us, either by participation or the donation of goods for our 'gift bags' and spot prizes.

We were very lucky to be able to get a date to visit the Gibbs Farm, as visiting this sculpture collection is only available to charitable and educational facilities as a fundraising opportunity, with a long waiting list.

Gibbs Farm has the largest collection of large-scale outdoor sculptures in New Zealand - artists from NZ and around the world have been commissioned by the owner to create artworks that blend in with the scale of the landscape which is approx. 440 hectares of contouring land. This land is also home to giraffes, zebra, bison, alpacas, emu and more. This park needs to be seen to be believed.

The group also visited the Sculptureum Gardens in Matakana which has beautiful areas of gardens and

also galleries housing the personal art collection of the owners. There was some amazing glasswork, and a chandelier by one of the world's most celebrated contemporary glass artists, Chihuly, who currently has his glass art on display at Kew Gardens in London. A very interesting place to visit.

Visiting these two properties on the same day gave us the chance to see two extremes of philanthropical collections, which are both incredible in their own right and very different.

The group stayed in Auckland for two nights then we headed south to visit the Hamilton Gardens, which for those that have never visited, is a fabulous place to spend a few hours. They have a number of themed gardens with more to open in next year or two.

It was a very social group, who enjoyed wining and dining and lots of laughter together, with one couple wanting to book for next year's trip already. Destination to be decided...

Testimonials by some of our wonderful supporters:

"Thank you both for all that work to make such an enjoyable trip over the weekend for us. Wonderful time had by both of us. So good to interact with so many folks we knew little about. The Gibbs farm overwhelmed us. So pleased now we came as we had a ball."

"Thank you for a lovely few days"

"Marion and her team at Eastwoodhill - I wish to say thank you for an interesting and well organised trip to the various places that we saw last weekend. Probably few of us would have got to those places under our own steam so thank you once again."





Group admiring a cedar planted in 1875 and underplanting of bulbs at Westoe situated on a Rangitikei River terrace. Standing - photographer Gordon Collier.

NZGT Conference

Written by Pru Roberts,
Chair of the Friends of Eastwoodhill and
volunteer EWH gardener

In March, I drove to

Palmerston North to attend the New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT) Conference, which operates a register of selected gardens open to visit which began in 2003. Many of the best gardens in New Zealand are involved, both private and public, and the Manawatu has some beauties.

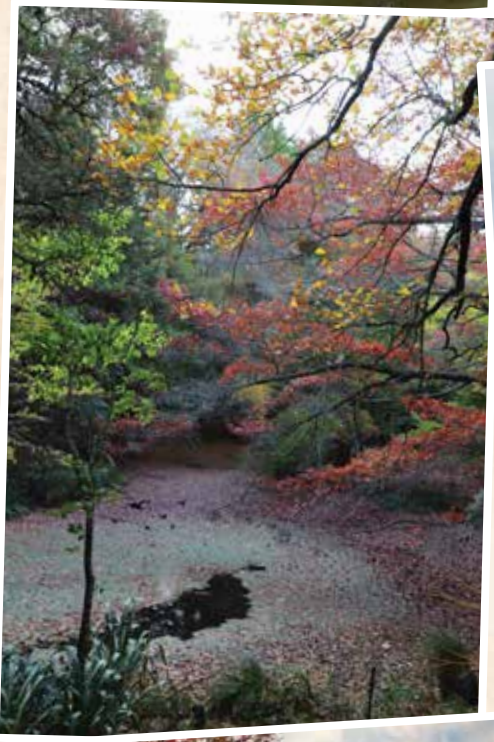
We visited, viewed, discussed and closely examined four gardens as well as the Victoria Esplanade public park. We were fed and watered beautifully by the locals and entertained and educated by the guest speaker Dan Benarcik, a horticultural expert and designer from Chanticleer Garden in Pennsylvania.

Altogether it was a delightful time to look back on while in these days of the Covid-19 stage four level lockdown in NZ. Congratulations to the organisers, it was a very well-run conference.

We attended the conference alongside one of the organisers Gordon Collier who a lot of you will know as the garden advisor at Eastwoodhill for 25 years. Gordon has a six-star garden which he has just retired from to move back to Taihape. We would like to thank Gordon for his fantastic donation of books which we are very grateful for and which will be kept in the Douglas Cook Library at Eastwoodhill for everyone to enjoy.

The Autumn Gallery







Leave a lasting legacy

What does Sunrise do?

- We raise funds from donations and legacies
- We invest funds retaining the capital and generating income
- We use income from investments to provide grants for local charities and organisations

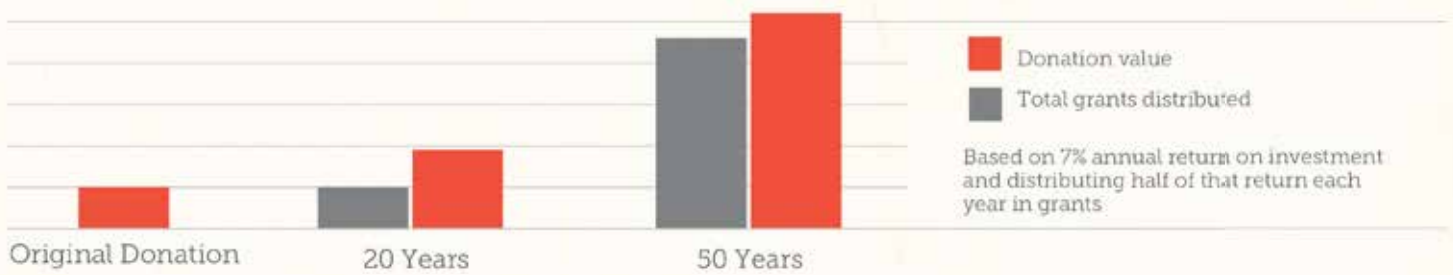
The Sunrise Foundation is a simple and lasting way to support local charities, organisations and causes that are important to you.

You can choose to donate to Sunrise's General Fund or your favourite charity or cause through a special interest fund. You can support causes that are close to home and close to your heart

Sunrise is an organisation for local people to give for local needs, to help build a strong future for Tairāwhiti-Gisborne forever.

The value of a donation to Sunrise

All donations and bequests to Sunrise are invested in endowment funds in perpetuity (forever). Every year some of the investment income is retained to ensure the donation grows in line with inflation and is protected from future market fluctuations. The balance is granted back to the community (and in the case of the Eastwoodhill Arboretum fund to Eastwoodhill) each and every year forever.



Over 20 years your donation will double in size and grants to the value of your original donation will have been granted to worthy causes. Over 50 years your donation and the total grants to our community will be 5 times more than your original donation.

Donating to the Eastwoodhill Arboretum Endowment Fund

You can gift donations of any size, every little bit helps, and all donations qualify for a tax rebate of 33.3% up to the limit of your taxable income. Donate now by

- Credit card or internet banking on our website's Donate Now page
- By direct credit as a one-off donation or set up a regular automatic payment

Sunrise Foundation Trust Account 02 0644 0217280 01

Please contact us if you would like a receipt for your tax claim. Let us know if this is a regular payment and we will send you a receipt at the end of the financial year. Don't forget to let us know your donation is for Eastwoodhill.

Leave a legacy in your will

When making a will many people want to give something to their community, or leave a bequest to their favourite charitable cause. It's a common misconception that only wealthy people leave money to charity when they pass away. Gifts in wills, or bequests, are not just made by the rich and famous. The reality is most bequests are made by ordinary, hard working people who want to make a positive difference in their community and other people's lives. You may consider leaving a percentage of your estate or a specified sum in your will to the Eastwoodhill Arboretum Endowment Fund, confident in the knowledge your bequest will be an enduring legacy for Eastwoodhill.



If you would like more information on how you can make a difference for Eastwoodhill, call Glenda at the Sunrise Foundation on 06 867 7939 or email glenda@sunrisefoundation.org.nz.

The Sunrise Foundation PO Box 1068, Gisborne 4040
www.sunrisefoundation.org.nz

Should Eastwoodhill Arboretum cease to exist or meet the legal requirements of being a charitable organisation, Sunrise will distribute the fund to another beneficiary or beneficiaries which has or have charitable purposes similar to Eastwoodhill.

Leave a lasting legacy



Support the
**Eastwoodhill
Arboretum**
Endowment Fund

DONATE NOW

JN Williams Memorial Trust
will match your donation to
Eastwoodhill's fund
– dollar for dollar

Although it is revered at the
National Arboretum of
New Zealand, Eastwoodhill
doesn't receive any government
funding and is reliant on
donations and grants to survive.


Gisborne
Eastwoodhill
National Arboretum of New Zealand



Eastwoodhill was established in 1910 and is regarded as the largest and most comprehensive collection of Northern Hemisphere trees south of the equator. **Eastwoodhill** is considered an arboreal ark as many of the plants and trees are threatened species.

As important as it is to preserve the past the current custodians are committed to growing and securing the arboretum's future. They have established the **Eastwoodhill Arboretum Endowment Fund** to ensure the survival of this globally significant collection and support the future development of the arboretum

Any donation you make will be doubled, protected and grown each year in line with inflation. The surplus investment income will be granted back to **Eastwoodhill Arboretum** every year, meaning your donation will keep supporting them forever.

If you would like more information on how you can make a difference for **Eastwoodhill Arboretum** call Glenda at the Sunrise Foundation on 06 867 7939 or glenda@sunrisefoundation.org.nz

www.sunrisefoundation.org.nz

To find out more about Eastwoodhill Arboretum got to www.eastwoodhill.org.nz


**The
Sunrise
Foundation**
Local Giving for Local Needs