

Friends of
Eastwoodhill
newsletter

autumn 2019



Gisborne
Eastwoodhill
National Arboretum of New Zealand

www.eastwoodhill.org.nz

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Visitor Centre - Opening Hours

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

Eastwoodhill Trust Board

Jane Williams (Chair)
Peter Jackman
John Clarke
Susan Kemp
Patrick Willock
Pru Roberts

Newsletter design by Draggnett

DIARY DATES

March 31 : Mere Boynton + Friends Concert
April 14 : Teddy Bears' Picnic
May 19 : Friends Of Eastwoodhill AGM
May 26 : Botanic Gardens Day
Free Entry!
August 31 : Daffodil Day

The Eastwoodhill **chairperson's** message

Jane Williams is the new Chair of the Eastwoodhill Trust Board. She was born in Gisborne, and later married Jeremy. They lived at Matahiia near Ruatoria for 30 years and raised three children together Rosie, Julia and Kenny. They are now based in Gisborne town and are enjoying less road miles

Jane was a nurse and worked for Ngati Porou Hauora throughout her married life. She has been involved in governance as a school board trustee for primary level in Ruatoria and secondary level in Hawkes Bay. She is the community representative on the Hospital Advisory Committee and is also a trustee for the Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust and the deputy Chair of Hospice Tairawhiti.

Jane has been involved with Eastwoodhill now for over 5 years as a trustee. She is the Poverty Bay Horticultural Society rep. We asked Jane why she likes being involved with Eastwoodhill...

"I really think there is nowhere else like Eastwoodhill. The more I am involved the more I can see the relevance of its necessity in our world. We are so lucky to have Eastwoodhill doing such a great job for the world from right here in Gisborne, New Zealand, acting as a repository saving northern hemisphere trees. The concept of the arboreal arc for trees is really poignant for our future and here at Eastwoodhill I am proud to take on the role of Chair and get this role for Eastwoodhill moving. It's a real gem of an idea at an international level.

My job is to ensure the arboretum continues its job and in order to do that we need to look after the arboretum business. If we don't look after the business we don't look after the trees and continue this important role we have.

The challenge to the Board is to overcome the location challenges of the arboretum. It's not a natural tourist attraction location and doesn't fall in the direct tourist roadmap. It's all about thinking outside the square."

JANE WILLIAMS, CHAIRPERSON OF EASTWOODHILL

Message from the **chairperson**

It's all about the Trees. How do we keep one man's dream alive?? Actually it's the dream of two men, Douglas Cook and Bill Williams. Douglas Cook who built upon his passion for living nature and developed what we now know as Eastwoodhill, and Bill Williams who ensured the dream would flourish for the next 50 years.

Now it is our turn.

It is quite clear we need to build the 'business' of Eastwoodhill in order to sustain the arboretum.

Sustainable income remains a critical issue. We have the special, but unusual, Eastwoodhill Trust Board Act that specifies what will constitute the Board. Appointment to the board requires a consultative approach from Gisborne District Council, Minister of Conservation, PB Horticultural Society, Gisborne Branch of NZ Farm Forestry, The Friends of Eastwoodhill and a member of the HB Williams Family. It should be noted, we receive no regional or national funding despite being the National Arboretum of NZ.

Building strategic partnerships locally, nationally and internationally, maintaining communication, locally, nationally and internationally and continuing to cultivate the bond between people, trees and plants locally, nationally and internationally must be our immediate goal, for long term financial stability.

To achieve this, the Board will be working through their strategic objectives; The Collection, Funding, Communication and Education and Science.

In my time on the Board, as we go through our yearly business in a challenging climate, I am very proud to be associated with clear thinking hard, working people. This is reflected in our management staff who also have one of the nicest work environments anywhere.

JANE WILLIAMS



From top left clockwise
John Clarke, Patrick Willock, Peter Jackman,
Pru Roberts, Jane Williams and Susan Kemp.



message from the **manager**

A big welcome to 2019 from Eastwoodhill. It always blows me away when I reflect on how fast time goes, we are almost a quarter of the way through the year! While time has flown, we have managed to pack a lot in over the summer. We opened a Tea House in the old homestead building for the summer and feedback has been positive with a number of people commenting that the scones are some of the best they have tasted. This has been run as a trial as we always have visitors enquiring “where is the café?” but we were unsure of how many would support it. The Homestead Tea House is open from Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 3pm until Queen’s Birthday weekend so if you have not visited, you still have ample time to do so over Autumn.

It has been a usual busy summer with a number of cruise ships and weddings, and good visitor numbers through the gates with more to come over the coming months. Eastwoodhill is a picturesque space for people to marry in and they have stunning photos which has resulted in showing a number of out of town people our amazing facility.

Our team has grown by one with Anthea Dalton joining our team. Anthea has been working with the outside crew and has meshed really well with our existing team who, I must add, have ALL been doing a fantastic job.

It is great to finally have the car park bank finished with new road marking for car parks – it now presents a more inviting welcome to our visitors. The addition of the beehive (above the carpark) with viewing windows is a project that has been long awaited, which I am sure children and adults will enjoy.

The gift shop has been performing well over the summer months as most people like to take home a treat while on holiday – we just need to get locals to realise that we have this amazing facility and to make use of it. If you

need a birthday or anniversary present – don’t forget about the gorgeous things we have in our shop.

The Friends of Eastwoodhill have a few upcoming events – the Mere Boynton & Friends concert on Sunday 31st March, and The Teddy Bears picnic on Sunday 14th April. We are really looking forward to these gorgeous events!

Our forestry block is going to be removed over the coming months and part of the arboretum will be closed because of this. It doesn’t affect the running or any of our more popular tracks, but we do ask that you respect any warning signs and stay out of areas designated as no public access while the work are in progress.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that help out in the Visitor Centre over the weekends and public holidays – your help is greatly appreciated and we couldn’t cope without you all.

The Friends of Eastwoodhill AGM will be held on Sunday 19th May, and we will be looking for new members to join the FOE as Anne-Marie Vigeant has resigned – we need keen folk to help with fundraising as this is always a strong focus for EWH as you all know.

A reminder that the weekend volunteers finish Queen’s birthday (Monday June 3).

Looking forward to a busy autumn with loads of visitors wanting to experience our piece of paradise, and if you have not visited for some time, please make the effort to visit us soon.

REGARDS
MARION

daniel taylor – **acting curator**

The last six months have been bustling with activity throughout the arboretum. Witech arboriculture students pruned throughout Pear Park and Bolle's Corner in November. During their work they provided a light well for our *Amelanchier asiatica* along with getting some cutting material for us to work with. A big thank you to the students and tutors, and another big thank you to the volunteers, community workers and staff who helped tidy up the waste material.

The fifth of December was International Volunteer Day and we nominated one of our regular volunteers, Josh Ellison for a number of awards. The awards were organised by the Gisborne Volunteer Centre and it was a great night out watching others be appreciated for all the hard work they put into the community while asking for nothing in return.

We have a new staff member, Anthea, who started with us late last year. She has been helping the garden ladies in the homestead garden and has shown a keen interest and proficiency at plant propagation. We are rapt to have her on board and with our arboretum now officially fully staffed we look forward to having a big push in areas throughout the park this year.

We have always had a number of activities for the public to do here and I am pleased to announce our latest. Next to the top carpark we now have a beehive complete with viewing ports for people to watch the bees go about their business in the hive.

The setup has been a close collaboration between ourselves and Barry and Garry. Barry is one of two beekeepers that have hives in our arboretum and has been great to work with. We do ask that you refrain from tapping on the glass and close the covers when finished viewing so the bees can go about their business in peace. Being good natured creatures, they shouldn't sting, but if you are aware of any allergies to bee stings, we do advise being careful.

Due to decay and branches failing, the RSA in Gisborne have had to remove their Lone Pine *Pinus brutis*. This tree is one of many grown from seed brought home by our lads after the battle of Gallipoli and it is sad to see it go. However, the RSA have organised seed collecting and propagating from this tree before it was removed and they have kindly donated a seedling found in the garden to our arboretum. It is a great honour to have a tree that traces its roots to a historical event in our nation's history here at our national arboretum and we will treasure this as a living memorial just as its parent was treasured at the RSA. We are looking to have the official planting ceremony of this seedling at some point this year.

With autumn on the way we look forward to the vibrant display within the arboretum and listening to the hustle and bustle of leaves as we go about our work. I'm sure others feel the same about their own gardens but if you feel a lack of autumn colour within your garden, come and visit ours and find some inspiration during your visit. Who knows, you may even find just the plant you didn't realise you were looking for.



the story of **william douglas cook**

.....The fear that drove him on

The 'Cold War' and its threat of destruction of Europe and its gardens through a nuclear war gave Douglas the drive to move faster at getting all good plant material into "Eastwoodhill". He was sure that Europe would be blown apart and he saw "Eastwoodhill" as a repository for good garden material. Douglas was afraid to venture from NZ in the 1950's in case he was unable to get back to his garden and his work. He planned that from "Eastwoodhill" after this anticipated war, the gardens of Europe would be able to come and collect material to start again.

Douglas Park Nursery

From 1948 to the early 1950's, Douglas operated a nursery called "Douglas Park Nursery" and employed a propagator to graft various flowering cherries and apples. A catalogue was produced. He also imported camellias from Australia for reselling. The nursery did not continue for long as his propagator left, because he did not enjoy the isolation, and Douglas did not persevere with the operation. The remnants of the nursery can still be viewed in Pear Park as "Nurserywood".

From where the money...?

Douglas Cook's many overseas trips were paid for from Scottish inheritance money. Some of this money was also kept in Britain and used to purchase trees. The proceeds or profits off the farm were channelled into the plantings, the farm often having to go without. This was the bane of many of his farm managers, resulting in short tenure of service by many of them.

The good wool cheques of the 1950's must have been appreciated. He mortgaged the farm many times to raise money.

However, by the mid-1950s, despite these good wool cheques we find Douglas selling off 925 acres to Adrian Cave, and the money he then put into developing the Circus area of "Eastwoodhill". The money was also used to develop ponds throughout the Park, the ponds in Douglas Park only been put in in the early 1960s.



A last effort

At the age of 79 he embarked on the last area he was to tackle, Glen Douglas, a 25-acre valley. At this point he also involved Rob Bayly, Curator at Pukeiti, who left and came across to take up residence at "Eastwoodhill". The plan was for Rob to be given the 25 acres of Glen Douglas and a place for Rob and Claire to build a home. He was to establish a nursery and use the "Eastwoodhill" collection as a resource for propagation. Douglas wanted the material in the collection to be more widely available. Douglas also prepared a house site close by where he was to build a house that would be fireproof, to protect his valuables, and for the Baylys to look after him in his old age. Unfortunately, the plans were just the dreams of Douglas, the money was not there to let them become reality. Rob ended up by spending his own life's savings on getting various matters attended to, such as driveways, ground preparation for his nursery etc. When his money ran out, Rob was to realise that Douglas had none also. So that dream came to nought.....

To be continued....

TAKEN FROM THE MAN WHOSE DREAM BECAME
EASTWOODHILL, COMPILED BY GARY CLAPPERTON

volunteer profile

josh ellison

It was Josh Ellison's passion for native birds that first led him to be a volunteer. Out of concern for the local birdlife in Wairoa he approached DOC about helping to trap pests in the area. DOC supplied him with a number of traps and so began his first volunteering role. Josh who has a number of qualifications in agriculture, was keen to put his knowledge to use. Receiving an award at the Gisborne Volunteer Centre Youth Awards prompted him to explore further volunteering opportunities in Gisborne, where he could use his practical skills and knowledge.

Josh had never heard of or visited the Eastwoodhill Arboretum so when Gisborne Volunteer Centre staff suggested he volunteer there, it was a totally new idea.

A bit of team work between the two organisations enabled Joshua to become an Eastwoodhill volunteer. Josh did not have his license and a lack of transport to the arboretum located 35km out of Gisborne city would have been a barrier to his volunteering there. Initially a staff member from the Volunteer Centre took him to the Arboretum for a visit. Josh met the staff and had his first glimpse of a place which would become a part of his life. Recognising a fellow enthusiast, staff member Dan Taylor kindly offered to assist Josh with a ride to and from work on the days he volunteers, which ultimately enabled Josh to accept the role.

It wasn't long before Josh felt like part of the team and he enjoys that every workday is different at the arboretum. Josh has the opportunity to work with some of the machinery like the wood chipper, which has expanded his experience and skills. He still gets to use his experience in pest control occasionally, but when Josh gave Janine from the Gisborne Volunteer Centre a quick tour I could see his love and genuine interest in the trees and the environment is where Josh has truly found the volunteering role which is the perfect fit for him. He shares his knowledge about the trees and native plants freely and with enthusiasm and is proud of his ability to relay information about the arboretum and its flora.

Josh is in the perfect environment to indulge his love of native birdlife and Josh identifies the Native Tree Walk as his favourite part of the arboretum. Observing Josh's interactions with his colleagues it is clear to see that he is a valued member of the team. Recently the Eastwoodhill staff nominated Josh for a volunteering award and attended the awards as a group to acknowledge and celebrate Josh's volunteering achievements. They describe him as a warm, loving, passionate man who loves nature. They have observed him grow from appearing unsure of himself at times to showing great confidence in his new found role.

Josh has volunteered his time twice a week, every week over the past six months and the staff really look forward to the days that Josh volunteers with them. Josh has found a place at Eastwoodhill Arboretum with staff that truly share his love and passion for the 131 hectares of exotic and native trees, shrubs and wildlife that exist in this special place.

WRITTEN BY JANINE HAMILTON-KELLS
FROM THE GISBORNE VOLUNTEER CENTRE.



margaret savage at eastwoodhill arboretum

Margaret Savage was two years old and in a push chair when she first went to Eastwoodhill Arboretum with her mother who was visiting arboretum founder, Douglas Cook. It was always silver, china and serviettes for the occasion, not that Margaret could appreciate such niceties then but neither could she have known that eighty years later she would look back on decades of dedication and service to 'a man's tall dream'.

Her love of plants began as a young woman when she worked for a Gisborne florist, Peggy De Costa. After she married, she called on Peggy one frosty winter's day and commented that they didn't get frosts at Pukeakura Station in the Waimata Valley where she lived with husband, Peter. Peggy immediately said "grow me some flowers".

Margaret took up the challenge and began learning her craft on the job; trial and error, exchange of information and ideas with fellow gardeners and the willingness to consult experts when the need arose have all developed her extensive knowledge. Having joined the volunteer gardener force at Eastwoodhill some forty years ago, she considers herself fortunate to have had a long association with renowned plantsman and landscape gardener, Gordon Collier, during his twenty-four year tenure as Eastwoodhill's garden advisor. Collier opened her eyes to the bigger picture; he taught her to see vistas, how to look at a tree trunk and about the many plants he gave to the arboretum.

Margaret often used her own initiative and would buy a plant of

interest, learn about it, propagate from it and plant it at Eastwoodhill. She carted copious amounts of sheep manure from Pukeakura, packing at least six bags into her car every gardening day. She even made her own potting mix, sieved then sterilised in her kitchen oven, to meet the needs of the precious delphiniums she sourced from specialist grower, Duncan McGlashen in England. Sadly because of the specific disease *Sclerotinia rolfsii* finding its way into Eastwoodhill, of Margaret's originals only one, Taffy, survives. To allow plantings in those same beds, the soil must be treated with Jeyes Fluid.

From delphiniums she turned her attention to the likes of ferns, ponga, hydrangeas, vireya rhododendrons and salvias. Thanks to the Auckland Lily Society knowing that *Salvia Gesneriflora* had existed in the arboretum, much to Margaret's delight, it was found, propagated and planted out. Dot Grey's double blue hydrangea, a Collier recommendation, on the bank near the carpark is another favourite that does well.


Margaret often says that Eastwoodhill is in her DNA. Her tireless enthusiasm for the arboretum and its flora is evident as tales of plantings and their history roll easily off her tongue. The recent discovery of a 'huge and hideous thing' of chestnut coloured spines, towering over the tractor shed was realised to be a biblical crown of thorns – a seedling from Douglas Cook's time.

She is pleased the *Montonoa* (Mexican tree daisy) cuttings planted two months ago below the pavilion are now growing well. And she hopes the *Cordyline Red Fountain* will survive the passion vine hopper and regain their former glory. The *Asarina* (climbing snapdragon), sourced from the Auckland Lily Society's free seed pool was a rare find and Margaret is thrilled with the prospect of seeing it flourish. 'It's a bit of a treasure,' she says. The Marlborough rock daisies are another special planting.

Margaret is like many gardeners for whom it is normal to recount the provenance of plants. Plants may be available off the nursery shelf but if given by someone, then that is their story and therefore part of the garden's story as it evolves – a story that will always abide in the memories of those who know or somewhere in the ethers of Eastwoodhill.

Volunteers have long been the life blood of Eastwoodhill's garden and will continue to be. However, they are currently supported by Anthea, a polytechnic graduate whose temporary staff appointment Margaret fervently hopes can be made permanent – as while she says she can grow plants and source rarities, she struggles with 'putting them together' as Anthea especially does.





Margaret suffered with dyslexia at a time when it wasn't recognised; she said plants have been her salvation and simply a sheer love which, put into practice has earned her some well-deserved awards.

In 2010, New Zealand Gardener magazine named her Regional Gardener of the Year for Gisborne; in 2011 she received a Gisborne District Council Citizen's Civic Award and in 2012 she was made Honorary Life Member by the Friends of Eastwoodhill.

She calls herself a 'plantaholic' and anyone who has spent any time with her at all or has seen the back patio at her home would agree. Plants of all kinds at all stages are everywhere, each with provenance and a plan, and when they go to their destinations, more will replace them. In a gardener's life there is always a future to behold, always a new hope.

At eighty-two, Margaret is still to be found gardening at Eastwoodhill two or three days per week. She has seen plants and people come and go but her devotion to the arboretum has never wavered and when asked about the future is quite matter of fact when she says: 'I'll keep on, keeping on.' You just can't dodge your DNA.

AS TOLD TO DELL BUSCKE.

message from the friends

The spring and summer of

2018-2019 has been a very busy time for our catering crew. Many cruise ships have frequented Eastwoodhill and this will continue into late April. By all accounts the visitors have been well fed and enriched by the tours provided.

Our catering team has also provided other boxed lunch tours, a grand meal for the winners of the Helicopter Auction and the Rere Community Xmas Dinner throughout the last year.

For those people who attended and helped man the Rose and Iris Show at the Event Centre in November...a huge thanks. The staff at Eastwoodhill created a beautiful stand and were fortunate to win a few prizes. This was a small show but it does seem to be worthwhile as new and old contacts are made and renewed.

The Friends are proud to announce our next big event... "The End of the Summer Wine" happening March 31st.

This is a combined event featuring a concert along with the launch of Eastwoodhill's new labelled wine. Thanks to Longbush Wines we now have another avenue to raise money for The Arboretum. This launch of the wine series will be in conjunction with a concert featuring Mere Boynton and friends Chaitanya Temepara and Norm Heke. This concert will herald the beauty of nature through waiata, in Te Reo Maori, English and Hebrew. This event will be from 4-7.30pm. Food platters are also available for pre-purchase to complement the wines offered. Tickets are available now on www.eventfinda.co.nz or check out our Facebook event.

Sunday April 14th is the date for the return of The Teddy Bears' Picnic. As usual all teddy bears are welcome, young and old! We are looking forward to another gorgeous day with our young ones exploring the wonder of Eastwoodhill.

We are also planning a winter quiz night so any donations for prizes would be greatly appreciated.

Our AGM for 2019 will be held on the 19th of May and all of those interested are more than welcome to join us for a light lunch and tour of the Arboretum.

Last but not least, a huge thanks to Friends who man visitors centre on Weekends and Public Holidays (not just Sundays), also thanks to the wonderful gardeners who work extremely hard to keep our gardens healthy and beautiful.

The Friends of Eastwoodhill Arboretum

AUTUMN AT THE HOMESTEAD TEA HOUSE

Mōrena, welcome, have you been for a walk yet? Across the lawn, the flags are up, come on in, the cake is just fine.

Time for a brief respite at the Homestead Tea House? Perhaps a refreshing tea/coffee break in the morning room, or there's space under the tree or on the porch. A piece of carrot cake, maybe a slice of ginger crunch, or maybe one of my cheesy scones - the High Commissioner from Tokelau had two!

We have welcomed a grand mixture of guests coming from all around the globe; England, Wales, South America, Russia, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, USA, Canada. A pleasing array of locals dropping by for repeat visits to the arboretum, usually with a group of relatives enthusiastically joining in.

Some guests of some note were... baby Neve with her mum (Clarke must have been off fishing), the PM brought her mum and dad along (Roger Ardern happens to be the Tokelau High Commissioner - did I mention he had 2 scones?!), and Eric Crooks (Bill Crooks's son) stopped by for a cup of tea and to wander some old haunts from his childhood. Eric was a great source of detailed information about the Homestead with numerous stories from when he lived in the house.

So you never know who you will be sitting next to when you stop by.

Here at the Homestead there is time for some reflection of the day, enjoying the environs, some quality chat, and the view from Douglas Cook's Homestead- and another successful visit to the arboretum can be ticked off the to-do list.

Then off for a walk, a meander through the trees where Kereru and Tui abound. Was that a peacock?!

It's lovely to meet you all, thank you for dropping by and we looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Ka kite ano



HOMESTEAD
tea
house

JOIN US AT THE **HOMESTEAD TEA HOUSE**

10am – 3pm Wednesday to Sunday

**Tea, coffee, scones and slices...
and great conversation....**

coming up



teddy bears' picnic

Sunday 14 April @ 10am

Bring your teddy and a picnic.

There will be heaps of games and activities, music, food and drink and fun!

\$20 a carload

mere boynton & friends

Sunday 31 March @ 4pm start

Singer Mere Boynton is joined by classical guitarist Chaitanya Temepara and taonga puoro player Norm Heke in a concert that heralds the beauty of nature, weaving a whariki (woven mat) of waiata (song) in te reo Māori, English and Hebrew.

Join us to celebrate the launch of the Eastwoodhill Wine Series and the incredible sounds of Mere Boynton.

Only \$30 per person, children free.

Platters available for pre-purchase.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM EVENTFINDA



Leave a lasting legacy



Support the
**Eastwoodhill
Arboretum**
Endowment Fund

Eastwoodhill

is the National Arboretum of New Zealand. It encompasses over 131 hectares of rolling hills, 25km of walking tracks and is home to 3500 species of exotic and native trees, shrubs and climber plantings.

Enjoying strong relationships with tertiary education providers, it is considered a valuable resource and base for scholarly research and hosts hundreds of local school groups every year. The arboretum is open to the public year round, attracting thousands of visitors.


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 invested, 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 go to www.eastwoodhill.org.nz


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