



The Friends of Eastwoodhill newsletter

THE JOY OF SPRING:
*Curator Paul Wynen enjoys the
arboretum's vibrant daffodil patch
with daughters Nikki (left) and Alice
last spring.*

A bright new beginning

As spring blossoms throughout the arboretum, there is another exciting new beginning to celebrate – the opening of the new Discovery Centre at the Douglas Cook Centre.

Education officer Brett Mead has been working on the project for several months and is looking forward to utilising all the new educational resources available when the centre opens this spring.

A new microscope that gets projected through a TV screen is a new feature. There is also a kids' corner, educational display boards, seed planting activities and lots more fun stuff for children and adults to enjoy.

Education is a special focus for Eastwoodhill to attract visitors into the park, so they can enjoy the breathtaking scenery and learn plenty of fascinating plant facts along the way. Of course, Eastwoodhill's daffodil patch in full flourish is simply not to be missed – the daffodils don't hang around for long though, so be quick!

Visit www.eastwoodhill.org.nz for all our latest news or call the Visitor Centre on 06 863 9003 for more information.

Upcoming events

Daffodil Day Service – August 22

The Cancer Society will hold its annual Daffodil Day service of remembrance at Eastwoodhill on Sunday August 22. The service starts at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea. \$5 per person.

Eastwoodhill Fun Run/Walk – November 7

The popular 7km Eastwoodhill Fun Run/Walk is back in November. Registrations will open soon – check www.eastwoodhill.org.nz for updates. There will not be a half marathon race this year.

Picnic in the Park – March 2011

This is a continuation of the highly successful concert at Easter. Final dates and performers to be announced soon.



Shop specials

Take this opportunity to own a piece of centennial memorabilia.

All merchandise is available from the Visitor Centre shop.

These fantastic glasses and golf size umbrellas are a great present for Christmas.

Centennial umbrellas
\$18



Centennial wine glasses
\$30 for boxed set of two



Centennial beer glasses
\$30 for boxed set of two



Credit card facilities available by calling the visitor centre.

Curator's report

The Easter centennial weekend was a wonderful time catching up with many Eastwoodhill supporters and friends and the weather played its part with the sun shining down on us all. Although started by one man, Douglas Cook, Eastwoodhill is now managed and maintained by a joint relationship of staff and volunteers and all can take great pride in the fact that Eastwoodhill is an internationally significant arboreal collection of great distinction.

An update on the Master Plan

The Master Plan is now in the final stages of development, with the first draft of the final copy currently being reviewed. Key elements include a new entrance way and car parking facilities, a more cohesive track system with improved accessibility around the arboretum, areas that will facilitate events large and small, reforming how the collection is presented using biogeographical realms to group plants, new construction opportunities within the core of the collection, a sports park and field trial area and the expansion of facilities and accommodation.

Floral highlights

The first few flowers on the *Magnolia (Michelia) doltsopa* outside the Visitor Centre have started to appear and jonquils are beginning to open in Corner Park.

The *Prunus campanulata* are also starting to bloom with lots of tui and korimako (bellbird) cruising around. The pink *Luculia, Luculia gratissima* on Burma Rd has been a delight with its delightful pink scented flowers infusing the area with its delectable scent.

Another little gem just outside my office door is *Hamamelis virginiana*, a species of witch hazel from Eastern North America and a plant with a huge range from Florida all the way up to Nova Scotia.

Witch hazel's name has nothing to do with witches, but rather originates from the old English word for pliable branches "wych". In early American times, instead of using elms as they did in England, the shrub's flexible forked branches were a favourite

"witching stick" of dowsers used for searching out hidden water. Witch hazel was widely used by American Indians as a medicinal plant. The bark was used to treat ulcers of the skin, sores, tumours and varicose veins. Some tribes placed the twigs on hot rocks in a sweat lodge to bathe and soothe sore muscles with the steam. I must remember to grab a few branches on my way home tonight to throw into the bath!



Luculia gratissima.



Hamamelis virginiana.

Tasty Leaf
CATERING
Friends of Eastwoodhill



Are you planning a special birthday celebration or Christmas party later in the year? The friendly team at Tasty Leaf Catering can tailor a delicious menu to suit your requirements. All proceeds go to Eastwoodhill Arboretum.

For more information and bookings call Eastwoodhill on 06 8639 003.

Chariot tours

Chariot tours will only be operating by prior arrangement with the Visitor Centre (weather conditions permitting) until Christmas.

Newsletter photo credits:

Front Page: Brett Mead
Page two: Paul Wynen (Curator's report). Page three and four: Brett Mead. Back page: Brett Mead

Centennial Celebrations at Eastwoodhill



Bob Berry receives award from Governor-General

A special centennial award acknowledging outstanding and enduring service to Eastwoodhill Arboretum was presented to Bob Berry by Governor-General Sir Anand Satyanand at the Centennial Gala Dinner in April.

The 93-year-old founder of Hackfalls Arboretum shared Douglas Cook's interest in horticulture and took on the mammoth task of cataloguing Eastwoodhill's collection in 1971. The catalogue revealed the true value of Eastwoodhill's collection and was distributed to botanists both here and overseas. It was a turning point for the arboretum and Bob and Lady Anne Berry remain devoted supporter of Eastwoodhill to this day.



Pictured from left: Bob Berry, Governor-General Sir Anand Satyanand, Lady Susan Satyanand and Lady Anne Berry.

A very special thank you to all our sponsors for making the Eastwoodhill centennial celebrations so memorable – your support is hugely appreciated.



Centennial Gala Dinner

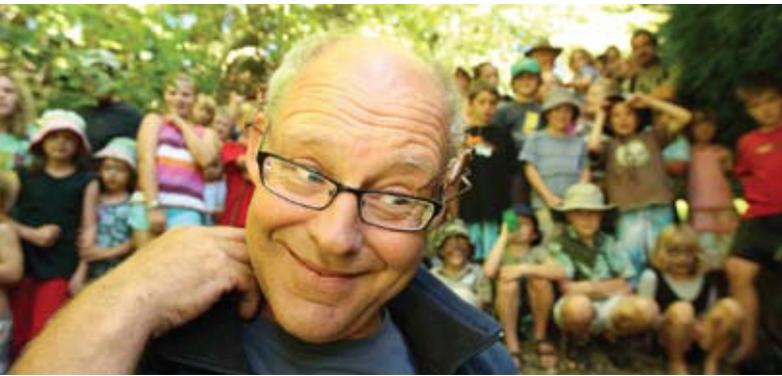


Clockwise from left: Hilarious entertainer Jim Hopkins draws plenty of laughs from the crowd. Diners enjoy a delicious three-course meal prepared by John Talmage and his team. A sneak peek behind the scenes. Brett Sherriff, Centennial committee chairman John Clarke and Gisborne Mayor Meng Foon catch up.

**J.N. Williams
Memorial Trust**

In association with Thos Corson Holdings Ltd, The Gisborne Herald and the J.N. Williams Memorial Trust, Eastwoodhill's centennial events over Easter weekend brought record numbers of visitors into the park and were a wonderful way to celebrate the arboretum's rich and colourful 100-year history.

A Day in the Park

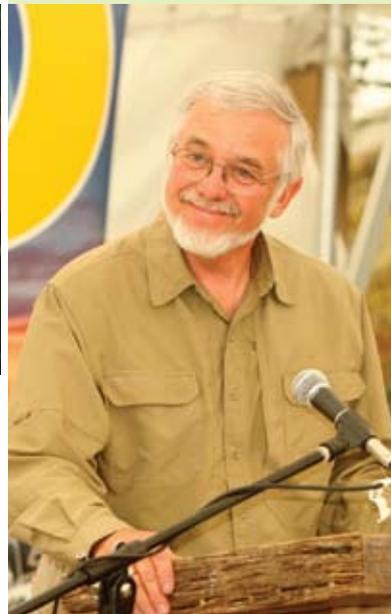


Clockwise from top left: The Governor-General plants a centennial tree with the help of curator Paul Wynen. Environmental sculptors Peri and Tony Gayford relax with their Easter creation. Bugman Ruud Kleinpaste finds all things creepy and crawly during a children's tour of the park.

**Treescape
Speaker Series**



Clockwise from left: Professor Buford Crites from Palm Desert in California addresses his audience. Manager of the Auckland Botanic Gardens Jack Hobbs shares his extensive plant knowledge. Tasty Leaf Catering's Sarah Faulkner serves a delicious lunch.



**Picnic in the Park with
Tim Beveridge**

Left: Tim Beveridge performs at Picnic in the Park. Above: Lady Anne Berry enjoys a glass of wine with friends.





Clockwise from above: Eastwoodhill's original garden ladies Robin McIldowie, Mary Bush, Bev Bridge and Dawn Jefferd. The Bog Garden in the 1980s and a more recent photograph of the much improved garden in all its colourful glory. The sundial area leading down to the Lower Garden as it was in the 1960s. The sundial area as it looks today.



Original garden ladies honoured

Eastwoodhill's four original garden ladies – Dawn Jefferd, Robin McIldowie, Mary Bush and Bev Bridge – transformed the arboretum's Homestead Garden and launched the Friends of Eastwoodhill. They were honoured with a certificate of appreciation at this year's AGM for their outstanding contribution. McEwen McIldowie tells their story.

When Dawn and Tiny Jefferd moved to Ngatapa in the early 1980s, Dan and Molly Weatherall were the farming, housekeeping and gardening couple at Eastwoodhill. Molly invited Dawn to afternoon tea at Eastwoodhill and showed her around the gardens, which at that stage were just an overgrown wilderness.

Dawn had the bright idea that she may be able to get a group of local ladies together to reinstate some of Cook's original gardens. She approached Robin McIldowie and Mary Bush who also suggested Bev Bridge. All of these ladies had magnificent gardens in their own right, most starting from scratch and culminating in what they have today. In 1984 the Trust Board approved their plans to restore the gardens, as long as they stayed within the black gates. The Eastwoodhill garden ladies group was official!

The ladies collected many plants from their own gardens, and fertiliser and topsoil came from their farms. Dawn also contacted Graham Smith at Pukeiti in New Plymouth to

pick his brains about how they ran their gardens and ask if Pukeiti would donate some plants and shrubs. His answer was "Get in your car and come and visit". Robin and Dawn were sent back to Eastwoodhill with a carload of Rhododendrons and many other plants. Graham also suggested the ladies form a Friends group.

Dawn wrote to the Trust Board and eventually the Friends of Eastwoodhill organisation was set up.

Over the years, more and more people joined to bring the Friends of Eastwoodhill to where it is today with more than 630 members. Of those original garden ladies, Robin continues to work in her Bog garden – 26 years in her gumboots is a long time! Dawn, Mary and Bev are also still very supportive of Eastwoodhill in every way. They, like Cookie, can all look at Eastwoodhill and say they're a part of what the arboretum is today.

Eastwoodhill Trust Board and the Friends of Eastwoodhill are extremely grateful for all the hard work these women, their friends and families have put in. This work continues under the guidance of Gordon Collier, Marg Savage and the "garden ladies" who all work to ensure the gardens continue to be maintained and developed.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to the gardens at Eastwoodhill get in touch with the office on 06 863 9003.

Family fun at Eastwoodhill

Eastwoodhill is a wonderful place for the whole family to enjoy the remarkable scenery of the arboretum and an enriching educational experience for young and old.



Above: Ruud Kleinpaste had children (and bugs) in the palm of his hand during a tour of the park at Easter. Below: There are always plenty of educational activities on hand at Eastwoodhill to keep the kids entertained.



Above: On an Easter egg hunt through the Homestead Garden. Ngatapa School children with their winning environmental sculpture as part of the Easter centennial celebrations.



Introduce us to your friends!

Do you know someone who would like to become a **Friend of Eastwoodhill?** If so, they can contact the Eastwoodhill office on 06 863 9003 or visit our website www.eastwoodhill.org.nz to download a membership form. Members get to enjoy our newsletters and free entry to the arboretum all year for just \$30 for individuals and \$55 for joint memberships.

SPRING ACTIVITY PACK

Trail activities through the park, discover how plants make food, arts and craft projects and sunflower planting.



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