

## Our Story



In 1950, William Douglas Cook, founder of Eastwoodhill, our national arboretum, was looking for land to grow rhododendrons. He found an ideal site, a 26-hectare block of heavily logged bush high on a saddle between Taranaki Maunga and the Kaitake Ranges. Renowned Taranaki businessman and horticulturist Russell Matthews (later Sir Russell Matthews K.B. O.B.E), then brought his own passion to the project, enlisting the financial support of 23 other rhododendron enthusiasts from around New Zealand. In 1951, together they established the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust (PRT).

The PRT's founding goals were: to encourage interest in and development of genus *Rhododendron*, along with scientific research into its breeding and culture; to act as a common meeting ground for enthusiasts; and to conserve and provide sanctuary for the garden's native flora and fauna.

Today, the garden encompasses 360 hectares, holding nearly 300 taxa from the genus *Rhododendron*, and with more than 21 kilometres of walkways through New Zealand's native rainforest. Although the Taranaki Regional Council now manages the garden day-to-day, we still hold true to our original purpose, maintaining a close partnership with the TRC and contributing practically and financially to conserve and grow Pukeiti's unique plant collection. We also actively provide leadership and expertise to national and global conservation networks and programmes working to conserve species *Rhododendron*.

## Membership Options

### Annual Membership

For individuals, couples and families \$40.00

### Endowment Membership (one payment only)

Individual \$1,750  Senior Individual \$1,100

Name .....

Address .....

Email .....

Phone .....

Subscription: \$ .....

Donation: \$ .....

Donations over \$5 are tax deductible and receipts will be issued

Total: \$ .....

Our Bank Account Number is 15-3953-0497531-00.

Please use your name as a reference.

Email your completed form to [pukeiti@pukeiti.com](mailto:pukeiti@pukeiti.com) or post to: The Secretary, Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc., PO Box 1066, New Plymouth 4340.

Endowment memberships are invested in the Pukeiti Trust Fund Perpetuity account, income from which contributes to projects within the garden, the rhododendron collection and the conservation rainforest.

### Sponsorship

Sponsorship opportunities sometimes arise to support equipment purchases and upgrades in the garden. If you would like to be contacted about future sponsorship activities, please email the Secretary at [pukeiti@pukeiti.com](mailto:pukeiti@pukeiti.com) for details.



## Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust

Caring for Pukeiti's  
Rhododendrons in the Rainforest since  
1951.

Join Us!

**There's a lot on offer when you become a member of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust.**



**Annual Plant Purchase Scheme.** Access beautiful plants that you won't find in any garden centre anywhere in New Zealand.



**Join the fight to save rare and endangered plants.** We work with experts world-wide on global conservation projects.



**Regular newsletters and an annual Journal.** Keeping you informed, entertained and up-to-date with Trust activities.



**Discounted Lodge and Studio Hire.** Have the garden all to yourself when you stay overnight in the Studio.



**Volunteer in the Garden.** Increase your plant knowledge and enjoy friendship and camaraderie in idyllic surroundings.



**Use the Members' Lounge and Library during garden opening hours.** Reference specialist plant and gardening books.



**10% discount off purchases at the café and giftshop.** Relax with great coffee and yummy food at the Rainforest Eatery.



**Garden Advice and Knowledge from Recognised Experts.** Enjoy regular educational walks with the experts.



**Member Events and Plant Tours.** Meet with other plant enthusiasts at Pukeiti. Visit gardens in Taranaki, nationally and abroad.