



AUTUMN SUMMARY  
*November 2018*

## CELEBRATING 3.3 MILLION TREES

### COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Speaking for life


### STRONGER TOGETHER

Radical Impact and  
Dreaming the World Green

### RE-WEAVING THE CIRCLE

Nest and new beginnings





*"Bowing to the wild intelligence of your life force, and choosing to respond to the deepest wisdom of your soul, is no longer merely an opportunity for growth, it is the global imperative upon which cultural transformation depends." - Clare Dubois*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter from CEO	pg. 3, 4
Quick Facts	pg. 5
Organisational Impacts	pg. 6-9
Poem ~ Lessons from a tree	pg. 10
Charitable Programs	pg. 11-15
Philanthropy Webinar	pg. 16
Welcoming New Faces	pg. 17
Ways to Support	pg. 18-19

Cover photo by Lauriane Cayet-Robert  
at Kenya Planting Project

Artist credit: Andreas Lie



# WELCOME LETTER FROM OUR CEO



Welcome to our impact report for Autumn 2018. What an extraordinary time we are all living in, on all fronts. Wow!

Hopefully, you'll be as thrilled as we are to know that within the last few months we sailed passed the milestone of 3 million trees funded. This was a much-needed balm and beacon of hope amidst what has felt like a sea of recent bad news concerning climate change and our planetary future. The IPCC report on climate change and the WWF extinction paper signalled once and for all that business, as usual, is over. In the absence of international leadership to address what's coming, it's grassroots intelligence and the courage of individuals and organisations that now needs to lead the way.

TreeSisters has never felt more relevant or necessary. As we build, strengthen and nourish our community, like the forest floor we are ensuring each others wellbeing, while providing the presence and mutual support needed to step into leadership. We are gathering and growing, accessing more of ourselves, our courage and our creativity so that we can act on behalf of the forests and all of life.

We are strengthening our focus on developing our network-led approach. We are also deep inside a corporate strategy that will roll out in the spring. Finding ways to reach through rising fear and denial to touch the parts of us that long to step up and out, is becoming a more and more challenging, fascinating, relevant and needed task.

It is all too clear that this is the time for radical action and quantum leaps in self-identity and purpose if we are to redefine what it means to be human and collectively choose to protect life on earth. This has always been core to our mission. We hold up a signpost pointing away from our identity as consumers, and towards the possibility of becoming restorers. We witness the impact of this invitation as it expresses through those who call themselves treesisters, and all that they are doing within their communities and through their giving.



Cross River Gorilla  
Endangered Species  
Image by  
Eden Reforestation Projects





In this report we want to give you an insight into the individuals, animals and ecosystems that your donation supports. And an idea of the scale and number of individuals in our network and beyond, that are impacted by your funding of TreeSisters.

We also want to let you know what has been happening in the treesisters community and how, by supporting our women's charitable programs, you are growing local community initiatives and seeding courageous conversations. Your generosity is helping to build resilience and actions taken on behalf of life.

We deeply thank you for all that you are already doing to serve our work into the world. From my heart, I would also love to ask you to step forward with your generosity even more.

We need help to build this movement of restoration and creative, courageous women stepping into collective responsibility to reforest the tropics. We are building hope. We are building resilience.

We are growing trees and restoring ecosystems whilst supporting women to thrive at a crucial time when our leadership is most needed. We are growing a movement and that movement needs all of our fingerprints all over it! We would love you to join us.

Let's see how radical we can get!

In deep gratitude.  
Clare Dubois

Founder and CEO  
of TreeSisters



Image by  
Eden Reforestation Projects



## Quick Facts

### Tree Projects

- Trees funded July to September: 526,917
- Total number of trees funded to date: 3.3 million
- Reforestation partners: 4
- Ecosystems being restored: 8 within 6 countries
- Countries we're impacting: Madagascar, Brazil, India, Nepal, Cameroon, and Kenya
- Individuals impacted by our tree projects: 16,500

### Charitable Programs

- Grove Tenders: 100
- Women participating in the Inner Journey: 5,150
- Total individuals impacted by our work: 250,000

### Organisation

- Volunteers: 34
- Reach of social network: 74 countries
- Monthly Donors: 3,224
- Water Carriers: 74



Artist credit: Debra Bernier





# Organisation Impacts

How our projects are making a difference around the world

*Image credit: Eden Reforestation Madagascar*



When you become a treesister restorer donor, 80% of your giving goes towards our planting projects. To date we have funded the planting of 3.3 million trees, however, the impacts of the projects that we support go far beyond tree planting activities.



In Kalamboro, Madagascar the TreeSisters project impacts 250 households, and provides full year employment to 26 female heads of household, resulting in 160 women being lifted out of extreme poverty. The three Eden projects that we support in Madagascar and Nepal provide employment for 1,460 people in total, and over 8,700 people are impacted in these communities by your gift.





**Our project in Kenya with International Tree Foundation (ITF)** has a positive impact for 4,640 individuals, providing livelihoods primarily for families with women as single head of household. Community members active in landscape restoration include:

- More than 4,000 farmers involved in tree planting at Imenti and Karuri
- 520 members of women's groups and self-help groups involved in tree nurseries and tree planting in Embu and Magaca
- More than 4,000 farmers who have increased their income
- More than 3,000 farmers who have increased their farm yields
- 40 community based organisations (mostly women's groups, self-help groups and Community Forest Associations) that have increased their capacity

*Photos by Lauriane Cayet-  
Robert  
TreeSisters Reforestation  
Director*







*Image credit: Isha Foundation*



**The Agroforestry project with ISHA (Project Greenhands)** supported 59 farming households and their families with a livelihood in 2017-2018.

The Isha Foundation project (PGH) is an agroforestry project. Farmers plant on their own land and take care of the saplings. Here's how your donation has grown trees and livelihoods.



**Number of trees planted by year:**

- Apr 1, 2014 - Mar 31, 2015: 14,551 saplings planted by 9 farmers
- Apr 1, 2015 - Mar 31, 2016: 17,082 saplings planted by 18 farmers
- Apr 1, 2016 - Mar 31, 2017: 16,310 saplings planted by 17 farmers
- Apr 1, 2017 - Mar 31, 2018: 55,000 saplings planted by 59 farmers





The farmers are planting about 50 different species of agroforestry trees which are all native to South-East Asia. The most popular species are a variety of neem locally known as “Malai vembu” - *Melia azedarach* (29%) and Teak - *Tectona grandis* (23%). This is a Map of the farmers plots.

The planting period officially starts in June, but has been subject to delays for several years because of climate change in the region. Each year PGH plans its annual operations in January/February, distributes seedlings in June and then planting occurs from August to February. From March to June, PGH also conducts awareness programs to encourage tree planting on farms and to identify farmers who want to engage in the program.



**In Brazil we are working with WeForest** to restore the forest corridor between Morro do Diabo State Park and the Iguaçu National Park. These forest corridors protect critically endangered species like the black lion tamarin monkey. The project also supports 10 families who carry out the planting in this region. The funding you give has also enabled the training of 63 individuals in plant propagation; a vital skill to ensure that local people plant the right species and know how to take care of the trees they plant. Our Indian project with WeForest supports the livelihoods of 452 people, and 155 people have been trained in tree propagation!

Overall across our projects, you impact **over 16,500 people**, protect endangered species and habitat and of course, are helping to reforest the tropics!





Grow and thrive  
like a tree.  
Even when it seems  
there is no space  
for you at all.

Burst at the edges.  
Spill over the sides.  
Weave and trace unlikely paths,  
holding true to your call.

Wrap your roots  
around obstacles.  
Hug them gently  
till they yield.

Push up the pavement.  
Find space,  
a little,  
then a little more.

Thrust your limbs  
to the sky.  
Pierce blue.  
Climbing.  
Reaching for.

Sway and bow  
to the winds,  
the heaven,  
and the stars.

Allow yourself  
to celebrate,  
limb,  
root,  
and core.

Hold yourself precious,  
so you may weather the storm.

# *Lessons From a Tree*

## *by Satpursha Kaur*



Photo by Lauriane Cayet-Robert  
TreeSisters Reforestation Director





## Charitable Program Impacts

We know that being a treesister has a big impact for you by the stories that we receive from the network. You've told us that you feel more hopeful in the face of the climate emergency that we face. And that you love the support, connection and belonging that being a treesister brings to your life.

### The Groves

TreeSisters Groves is an initiative that was asked for by our membership. It is a charitable program where we support women who we call 'Grove Tenders' to set up in-person circles of women in their local communities. These women are given support to set up their circles, receive peer support, and access materials to enable them to continue the circle and make them viable long term.

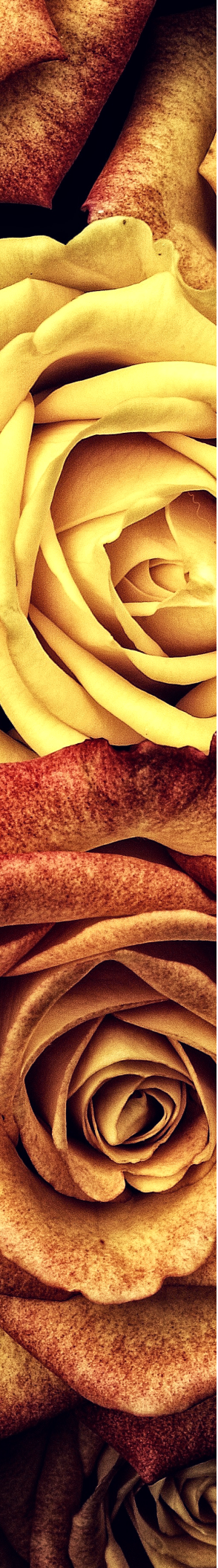
### *A Mandala dancing grove in Canada.*

The Mandala dancing grove was begun by TreeChild in Canada as a response to the devastation felt by their community after the clear cutting of trees. So far they have had four gatherings and four dances for the trees.

*"There's been an acknowledgement of work I did before TreeSisters was even formed. I worked as an eco-feminist bringing together women with earth, putting together lands protected for women to be on, TS came along and it was like ahh I am not alone - a huge global network embraced me and what I'd been doing all my life, the recognition, the tears! ...there was a woman who was having health challenges and we brought in TreeSister teachings of sistering, and then she later was witness to land near her home that was being clear-cut so she called a circle and we gathered and again came together to create a healing energy for the land that was being decimated. Many of us live near this clear cutting and the challenge of hearing the trees being cut has been really extreme. TreeSisters has been a big part of my healing and our circles are a way of giving back, offering our love through the dances and planting saplings" - TreeChild - Canada*

To read the full story please [visit our website here](#).





## *The Inner Journey*

Our Inner Journey of Awakening program is open to women (and those who identify as women) of all ages, all backgrounds and all ethnicities. It is free, online and can be joined at any time. It provides women with materials, support and connection to explore their feelings about climate change and environmental issues. It nurtures them through feelings of hopelessness in relation to a problem that can feel too 'big'. It provides support and sisterhood to make small or huge changes, and cheerleads women into their leadership and activation for the planet. It poses discussions and questions and is a safe place to be real and raw about what it means to be a woman stepping into empowered leadership for the planet. It is a long term project with sustainable goals around leadership, well-being and belonging for women.

### *Member Story - Linea Stewart*

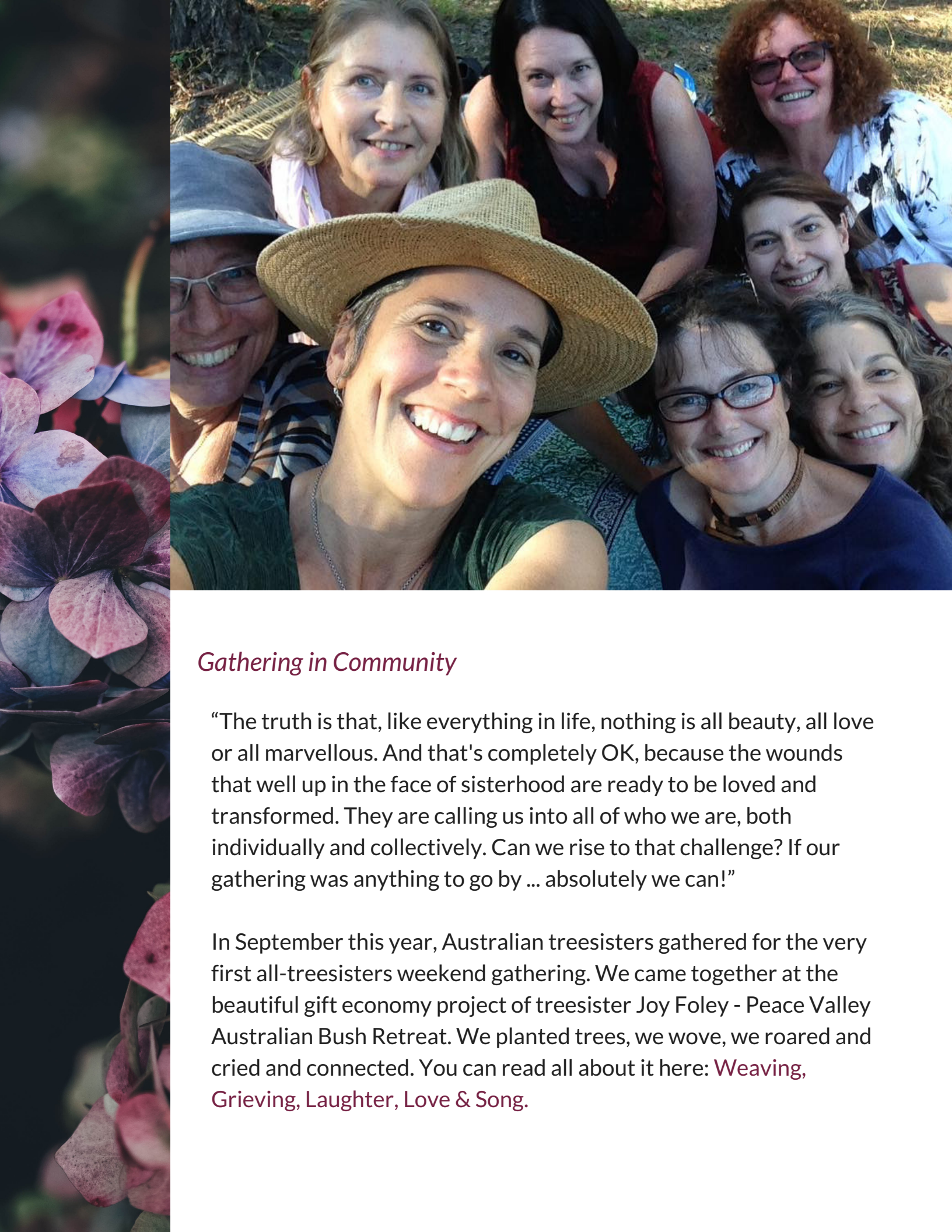
*"Discovering TreeSisters gave me new found hope to take care of the world we are leaving our grandchildren. Finally there was something I could do that made sense & would really help. I listened to many many of the offerings Clare had done previously & then started with the Inner Journey in January, which has blown my sox off!*

*Amazing that a Facebook group could have such sacred intimacy between women. And the focus of moving around the map has helped me grow & deepen, even at age 71.*

*My passions are spending time with my youngest grandchildren (ages 4 - 12) & my dog, reading & now since joining TreeSisters hanging out with the trees & plants in my back garden, watching birds. I also like supporting younger women (including my step-daughters & daughters-in-law) to be all they can be. I'm deeply grateful to be part of this wonderful network. It's given my retirement, my life new meaning." - Linéa Stewart*







## *Gathering in Community*

“The truth is that, like everything in life, nothing is all beauty, all love or all marvellous. And that's completely OK, because the wounds that well up in the face of sisterhood are ready to be loved and transformed. They are calling us into all of who we are, both individually and collectively. Can we rise to that challenge? If our gathering was anything to go by ... absolutely we can!”

In September this year, Australian treesisters gathered for the very first all-treesisters weekend gathering. We came together at the beautiful gift economy project of treesister Joy Foley - Peace Valley Australian Bush Retreat. We planted trees, we wove, we roared and cried and connected. You can read all about it here: [Weaving, Grieving, Laughter, Love & Song](#).





## *Sharing TreeSisters -*

## *Stories of courage and creativity from the Network*

Through our online presence we offer our membership multiple tools to enhance well being through greater connection to self, other and nature: rebuilding strength, health, personal meaning and purpose through enhanced connection. This global connection is extremely important as deforestation and climate consequences are a planetary problem. There are TreeSisters in over 74 countries participating in our online programs and 5% come from countries other than Europe, UK, Canada, Australia, United States etc, including women from Uganda, Pakistan, Zaire and Ghana.

The network is blazing a trail of courage and radical action and we are increasingly astonished and delighted with the activities that women are initiating within their local communities.

### *Courageous Conversations*

Courageous Conversations are happening every Wednesday on our main Facebook page. Women from our network are invited to find their courage and step forward live (in front of our 250,000 strong audience) to share their personal stories of feminine leadership. The conversations have magic woven into them and are a heart and soul experience.

We would like to thank Samiel Carolina Rodriguez Barros and Pollyanna Darling for holding space for the women who are bringing themselves from a place of courage and shine.

You can listen to the latest courageous conversation with treesister [NeLi Martin here](#), where she explores Surrender.



*Courageous  
Conversations*



treesisters  
women seeding change








# Welcome to the TreeSisters Nest

... a place for treesisters to gather and connect

[Request to Join](#)

## Seeding the Nest

Where women gather, extraordinary things grow. We are thrilled to share with you that our long dreamed of online TreeSisters community hub is birthing. The Nest is our online sisterhood and community space. In it you will find almost all of our groups, events and courses - everything in one place! The Nest is also a place for treesisters to find and connect with one another, both locally and globally. It's a forum for co-creating, celebration, wisdom, feminine leadership, knowledge-sharing, and inspiration. We are beginning slowly and gently by inviting women into the Nest who are participating in The Courage to Shine - our new online course. We're very excited to invite in our donors and our wider network in the New Year, so keep an eye on your inbox for your invitation.



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



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Online Now ●


Search TreeSisters Nest



## Discovery


Manage

### Welcome




Dear all - if you came into the Nest for The Courage to Shine course and haven't yet found your way into the The Courage to Shine...  
OUR WOMEN WHO LONG TO BE LIBERATED

Pollyanna Darling



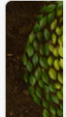
**New to TreeSisters Nest? Start Here!**  
Welcome to the TreeSisters Nest! We are deeply thrilled you're here...

Pollyanna Darling



**How to get help in the Nest**  
If you're struggling in the Nest, you have two main avenues for support...

Pollyanna Darling



**Our Gu**  
Artwork  
vision fo

Polly





# *Celebrating the* *Day of the Girl Child*

## Celebrating your giving - Philanthropy Series

Throughout October we have been exploring our relationship to money through a series of blogs and our [annual philanthropy webinar](#). We have been exploring what it means to place life at the centre of our choices. We have been assessing what the impacts would be both for our world and most importantly for life if we truly rose into our power as women and used our resources and money on behalf of life. Money is alchemical and treesisters donations are helping to turn money into trees, gender equality, dignity, inclusivity and a sustainable future.

*"We are all daughters of this earth and we must believe we were born for these times. Even when we are faced with death, destruction, fear and fallen trees, all of this must remind us to stay connected. We cannot give up. We must be brave. We must not wait for anyone else to do this important work for our planet and future generations. Whatever we have to give, we must give it now, from a place of deep connection to our life-giving power as women." - Alyssa Wright*

To read the blogs please click on the two photos.







## WELCOMING NEW FACES: EMMA GRAY



My name is Emma Gray and I am the new Volunteer Coordinator at TreeSisters. It feels an honour to come into this role and get to work with such an amazing team of volunteers. TreeSisters as it is wouldn't function without the commitment and skill of the women (and, as of this month, also men) who volunteer their time across the organisation. From running the Instagram account, supporting women through the Inner Journey, to developing systems for monitoring our tree planting work, volunteers are involved in every level of the organisation. In the few weeks that I have been in the role I have had some inspiring one to one sessions with volunteers who bring a wealth of experiences, professional backgrounds, practical life skills and wisdom to what they offer to TreeSisters.

And above all what I have found striking is the passion that every one of them has for the TreeSisters vision. It is my intention that as an organisation we harness this passion so that it can support the many facets of work that TreeSisters does, and be an experience that is enriching and meaningful for our volunteers.



## NEW FUNDING PARTNER ~ 1% for the Planet

TreeSisters is now partnering with 1% for the planet and is one of their spotlighted charities. If you work for an organisation that encourages in-house giving then please get involved so that you and your colleagues can give to TreeSisters through 1% for the planet by clicking [here](#).





## WAYS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR GROWING MOVEMENT

Become a monthly TreeSister member and plant leafy green trees! Join our 3,000+ Members by **signing up here**.

Become a WaterCarrier! Are you a small business owner? Contribute a portion of your business profits to the trees. Please visit our **Water Carrier's program webpage** or contact Terra at [support@treesisters.org](mailto:support@treesisters.org).

To Fundraise in aid of TreeSisters please check out our new **fundraising webpage** with helpful tips and to register your event.

*Thank you!*

### *Leafy Fun Fundraising Ideas - From our Fundraising Pack*

- Grow your own forest: Gather your friends and become a grove of forest funders. Together you will plant more trees than if you were alone. This is a great way to fundraise in sisterhood and to collectively make a difference.
- Gift giving: TreeSisters has a great selection of gift cards for any occasion. Why not encourage your friends to give TreeSisters gift cards during the holiday season?
- Organise an expert: Invite an expert on the environment, trees specific to your area, or an expert to speak on climate change or feminine leadership to speak in your local area, sell tickets and introduce TreeSisters at the same time. A fabulous way to bring together community and fundraise.
- Plant sale: plant your seeds of intention, nurture them & watch them grow before entrusting them to others.
- Sponsored events: walking meditation, runs, dances for the forests, 108 sun salutations.



- A night of fresh and foraged food: if you like to cook and know how to get ahold of home-grown or foraged food, this is a great way to bring people together and talk to them about the importance of caring for our planet. You could charge by the head or ask for donations at the end.
- Nurture Days: find a venue, invite teachers to offer their gifts in service to your cause (yoga, dance, guided meditations, etc) and invite women to come enjoy and donate.
- Open house silent retreat: you could open your home up for a silent retreat event (perhaps one day or a weekend) and ask for donations at the end.
- Host an art, personal growth or professional development workshop: and donate the proceeds.
- Evenings of art, music, poetry, comedy: you could hire a venue, host it in your favourite place in nature, or in your home or garden.
- Make Fairy Houses or Bird Houses with kids: invite the children in your community along with their parents and ask for donations for your cause.

Would you like to make building the TreeSisters movement a core part of your philanthropic strategy? Contact Jocelyn Anderson at [jocelyn@treesisters.org](mailto:jocelyn@treesisters.org), about a major gift or foundation grant, provide a legacy to trees with a gift in your will or join us as a corporate sponsor.

