



E-mail address: asert.trust@xtra.co.nz

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Postal address: PO Box 51000, Tawa, Wellington 5249.

Te Rito Gardens, 6 Hassell Road, old Porirua Hospital, Porirua.

Te Rito Gardens

“Manaaki Tangata, Manaaki Whenua, Haere Whakamua”.
“Care for the People, Care for the Land, Go Forward”.

The Project

Creates a training environment in which students are given the opportunity to learn the skills of: growing organic food and acquiring an income in a sustainable way.

The Course

Our teachers use a hands-on approach to training with an emphasis on positive learning activities and, with support staff, offer assistance and encouragement throughout the course. Whitireia Community Polytechnic administers the qualification and provides our tutors.

Te Rito Gardens

We accept tatou (all people) from throughout the greater Wellington, Hutt Valley and Kapiti region. Each participant is required to make a commitment to the course and take responsibility for their actions. Acceptance into the programme is related to positive attitude not previous academic achievement. Te Rito gardens are situated at the Old Porirua Hospital site, 6 Hassell Road, Kenepuru.

The Outcome

Those who complete the academic requirements are awarded a Level Two Certificate in Organic Horticulture. Students will gain knowledge of sustainable practice that strives to improve the environment and have the skills to grow food for friends and whanau. Te Rito Organics Ltd can provide a workplace and an income for graduates who demonstrate a commitment to the project.

Programme structure

The course starts in February each year and runs for 18 weeks over two terms. The hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am – 3pm. Most of this time will be spent in the workshop or the gardens. The following course related items are required to be purchased by all students: safety boots, hat, good quality wet-weather gear, gloves (4 pair), safety eye protection and work clothing. These may be funded through WINZ or Studylink. ID is required in order to complete enrolment.

Applicants will need to agree to the following:

1. Give permission to asert-Tātou Development Trust to seek a police check on the applicant if deemed necessary by a formal meeting of the trustees.
2. Every person who participates with or relates to the Te Rito Gardens programme and the land we care for is treated with the utmost respect.
3. All rules relating to Whitireia Community Polytechnic, particularly the “no smoking” policy (there are designated smoking areas provided), will be followed at all times.

Te Rito Organics

Some of the students' time will be spent with Te Rito Organics. The trust operates this company to cover some of the running costs of the programme. This will be part of the participant's training and will give valuable experience in the business of growing organic food.

For more information contact:

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