

Te Rito Gardens
6 Hassell Road
Old Porirua Hospital Grounds
Porirua
Wellington
Phone— 04 238 2960
Email—asert.trust@xtra.co.nz



Saturday market



Steve Updates

3rd Semester Graduation Ceremony

All well wishers and supporters are warmly invited to the 3rd semester **Graduation Ceremony on 16th December 2011.**

Time: 6pm
Venue: Te Rito Gardens

Please come along and support our students and team.

Cake and Coffee provided after Graduation.

The third semester of Te Rito Gardens Organic Horticulture course is almost completed with a diverse group of students taking up the opportunity to learn from our enthusiastic tutors. We have a wonderful group of teachers this year, each passionate about their particular area of interest in organic growing.

The events at Te Rito Gardens recently have centred on the formation of Te Rito Organics, our own company created to produce fresh organic food crops. Four graduates of the Te Rito Gardens training programme, with the support of **asert-Tatou Development Trust**, are now building gardens as they build their own business.

We officially opened the Te Rito Organics site with help from the Mayor, Nick Leggett and Komatua; Bill Arthur and Joe Tepania on 13th September. This was a significant event, the bringing together of people from different sectors of our community, we were united at that time as Bill Arthur blessed our gardens. Some of us noted that although the day threatened rain, the sun broke through as Bill lead us around the garden beds in prayer, warming us with its rays. A group of Tui broke into song and it seemed to me that peace was upon us all as the wind died away, it was a moment in time that I will never forget.

Recently share certificates were presented to Andrew Joslin, Reuben Wilson, Dion Gardner and Paul Barnard by our two local MPs; Hekia Parata and Kris Fa'aoi at a wonderful celebration of achievement by these individuals.

As this is the final Newsletter for the year I really want to thank the people who have made Te Rito Gardens and Te Rito Organics work, those who gave of their own time and resources as unpaid volunteers:

Stella Bridge, Suzanne DeRurd, Seema Singh, Gwen Mladenov, Grace Leung, Wendy Evans, Sujata George, Tom Russell, Bryn Helm, Matawai Pakau, Mark Sheriff, John Warren, Kirsten Waistell, Alicia Rich, Pauline Wilson, Judy Nicholls, Rosemary Wilson, Michele Love, Victor Marks and Russell Bishop.

Once again, thanks for being part of *asert-Tatou Development Trust*. We look forward to your support next year ..

Happy Holidays Everyone!!



Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to our November-December newsletter - we have missed you!!

Over the past few months we have all experienced wintry weather and phenomenal snow, rugby-cup fever and associated cures, exams, school holidays, advancement and retreat...in some form or other.

If there is any consistency throughout all of our experiences - it would have to be the onset of change. That unsteady state of progress, the unpredictable process of movement towards new...the hint of excitement and 'butterflies' when we allow ourselves to expect success!!

Well, we are overwhelmed with change at Te Rito Gardens and delighted to share with you some of the events and people, the vitalizing flow of life-force that's been recently seen here where encouragement and nourishment rule!!

Wellink and Welltech both have made such fine contributions to our year and we are really looking forward to working to further our mutual interests next year.

A real highlight has been the weekly Friday shared lunches - imaginative soups and salads made collaboratively on site from freshly-picked garden produce. Yum!! It's been a welcome opportunity for many guests to mingle and meet students, relax in the peaceful setting with nutritious food and stimulating conversation.

Our practice of guided learning for the students is coaxing invaluable improvement from them personally in the same way they are encouraging cooperation from the soil, the weather, from compost, seaweed and the plants themselves.

The Saturday morning market stall at Paremata Bridge car-park has been successfully profiling out business Te Rito Organics. It requires a tremendous effort from the Organics team led by Steve and Alicia and is proving increasingly popular from 8.30am till noon every week come hail, thunder and earthquake!!

Volunteers are very welcome or just come along to purchase your fresh weekend veges...

Now we are all excited about graduation on Friday the 16th of December, 6pm at the Gardens. Come and celebrate the successes of all involved, share friendship and ideas with others who encourage self-determination, knowledge and equal opportunity at Te Rito Gardens.



Blessing of the Te Rito Gardens



William & Brynley



Rebecca working on the cuttings

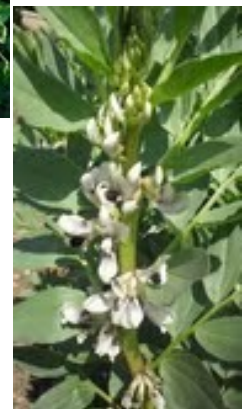
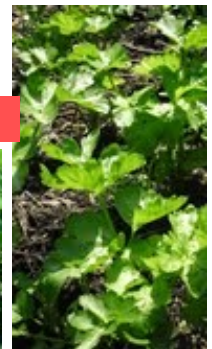


Read on now to discover the people and events and share the pleasure we are all experiencing in welcoming the new and healthy growth of change.

Happy harvests and a safe holiday season to all.

Judy Nicholls (Chairwoman)
Contact: 027 4751 003
asert—Tatou Development Trust

Peas and Celery growing in the garden



The weather has been perfect for the garden. Seasonal prompts leave windows of opportunity for the well-tuned green-fingered nature people, to move in an internal instinct, feet buried in a well-turned garden bed and the aroma of a sweet-smelling compost.

I'm in the zone!! We've had equal amounts of rain and sunshine over the last two months pushing us to get those seedlings and cuttings into the garden while over cast, wet and wonderful, then sunny days to get on top of the lawns, prepping new gardens and blissfully watching the many plants grow.

Eating the outcome of all our efforts makes it all the more better and the team still intact, sometimes a minor pain in the anaerobic brain - but bliss is a happy garden...!!

Are Karati (Tutor)



Thanks to all our supporters who gave their energy and their time to enable our progress:

- Hannah Zwartz, Stella Bridge, Ian McLean, Are Karati, Dave Treadwell and Sam Buchanan (Tutors)
- Hekia Parata, Kris Fa’aoi and Jan Logie (our elected representatives)
- Nick Leggett (Mayor of Porirua)
- Nigel Homan (Homan Horticulture)
- Jackie Smith (Bunnings Porirua)
- Bill Inge (Parks and Reserves Manager - Porirua City Council)
- Dee Jones (Zero Waste Coordinator – Porirua City Council)
- Charles Barry (Eco-schools Porirua)
- Trev Mason and Richard Witford-Smith (Porirua City Council)
- John Poppleton (Keep Porirua Beautiful)
- Margaret Faulkner (CCDHB)
- Jenny Brash (Wellington Regional Councillor)
- Elizabeth Coluzzi (Trash Palace)
- John McGuigan (Mana Recovery)
- Leanne Pelabon (Paramata Community Market/ Take Care)
- Bill Arthur and Jane Edwards (Ngati Toa) and Joe Tepania (Maraeroa Marae)
- Carol, Julie, Stephen and Graham (from the Trades Faculty, Whitireia Polytechnic)
- Ma’a Samuelu (Wellink)

Our Funders who paid the bills:

Mana Community Grants Foundation, Winton and Margret Bear Trust, Bishop of Wellington Trust, Commonsense Organics, Lions Club (Karori), TakeCare Services and COGS (Department of Internal Affairs), Porirua City Council, Whitireia Community Polytechnic and kind members of the public who have donated funds.

And most of all a huge thanks to **Are Karati** and the students who helped to build the beautiful, Te Rito Gardens.

Steve Wilson (Coordinator)

It has been a time of learning a good way of planting, good and healthy vegetables and in saying that I have learnt that good hard work pays off!

The many days coming into Te Rito have been nice, easy-going and easy work...

I’ve learnt about the equinox, composting, worms and their homes and also learnt a lot about planting vegetables and their activators also and what impact they have on mother nature.

William (Student)



William working on the cuttings

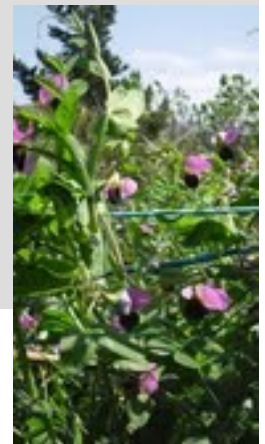
The Garden

The garden is growing beautifully and giving a lot of pleasure and peace as well as abundant food.

The work students have put in building up the soil, by mulching and making compost, is really paying off, as the plants are thriving. The seaweed liquid feed used on seedlings and all over the garden is resulting in strong, healthy plants. Stars this summer are going to be the tree spinach or magenta spreen-enough to feed a small army - along with tomatoes, beans kamokamo and perennial leeks.

We have also had a great crop of students this term and I’m really pleased with their growing understanding of plants and gardening.

Hannah Zwartz (Tutor)



Hi my name is Pepe Obeda and this is my first year of gardening. I am glad that I joined the Te Rito garden course, because I have gained a lot of knowledge about gardening. We learnt so much in the little time that we had together. We learnt how to make compost within a week or two; I was amazed to see how hot it can get with just natural materials. We made Liquid fertilizers as well to feed our plants, making sure they get all the right nutrients they need to grow healthy and strong.

Te Rito garden has helped me to improve myself a lot in many ways, which I am grateful for. I hope to continue with gardening for the years to come.

Pepe Obeda (Student)

The course has been good, learnt heaps, how to pot, grow and feed plants.

Leant how to make compost, liquid-feeds and fertilisers.

Learnt how to grow organically with no chemicals.

I’ve been here for 7 months and found it a good place to be, with a good environment!!

Brynley Davies (Student)



Brynley Davies

Contact

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Thoughts

*I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.
~ Ogden Nash
from 'Song of the Open Road', 1933 ~*

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas.

Elizabeth Murray

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.

Abraham Lincoln

Last semester's graduation photos



Newsletter completes One Year

It's been a pleasure for me to write about the Te Rito projects this year and also working with everyone associated with the *asert-Tatou Development Trust*. This is our last newsletter for this year; I hope you all have enjoyed reading them. I look forward to bringing to you more interesting work that we do at Te Rito next year. Please keep sending us your well wishes, emails, donations and volunteer support. Do drop into the Garden site when in Porirua.

Thank you .. Keep eating healthy ..

Seema Singh (Volunteer)

We Need a Fundraiser

Despite the successes we do need a **Fundraiser** to help write grant applications on behalf of *asert-Tatou Development Trust* for next year's funding. This is a volunteer position and could be started immediately.

If you are interested in the Fundraiser's position then please give Steve a call on 04 238 2960 or Email us on asert.trust@xtra.co.nz.



Grace, Dion and Reuben working in their Te Rito Organics Project



Need volunteers for next year (2012)

We are looking for volunteer administrators and also classroom helpers for next year .. A few hours a day or week would make a big difference to our workload. Please contact us if you are passionate about working in an educational/ garden environment and have some hours per week to spare!! We are a very closely knit community at Te Rito Gardens with a passion for organic gardening. You will definitely enjoy being here as everyday is a different day and the people are just great!!

Give Steve a call on 04 238 2960 or Email us on asert.trust@xtra.co.nz