

Visit to Te Rito Gardens in Elsdon Wednesday 19 February at 11



Te Rito Gardens in Elsdon is one of Porirua's special places. We have the opportunity to visit it on Wednesday 19 February at 11. We will hear about the history of Te Rito, its ethos and how it operates, and we will be taken round the gardens, nursery and workshop.

Te Rito Gardens is a Social Enterprise Cooperative growing organic food, native plants and creating related products. Run by a Trust it has a couple of paid staff and a group of enthusiastic volunteers. There is a strong focus on helping people learn to grow food and plants of various kinds and acquire an income in a sustainable way.

Te Rito is active in supporting native planting programmes across Porirua, working with Porirua City Council, schools, Ngāti Toa, conservation volunteers and Greater Wellington. Its focus is on creating sustainable ecosystems, propagating, selling and helping with native planting to create shelter and habitats for beneficial microorganisms, insects, birds and lizards. Over time Te Rito Gardens has created a large collection of eco-sourced native plants suitable for restorative plantings in the Porirua catchment. These are made available to local bodies, schools, community groups and the public. You can find that collection on its website.

In addition Te Rito teaches the art of growing NZ native plants as well as the sustainable growing of food. It also teaches basic woodworking skills and the production of objects using sustainably sought timber.

Access to the gardens is fairly easy, but please wear solid shoes. There is plenty of parking on the road. Te Rito Gardens is on Raiha Street opposite Sunlight Grove. Please bring a koha of between \$5 and \$10 as a gesture of thanks and to contribute to the ongoing work of Te Rito. Thank you to Linda Hansen for helping me organise this trip.

If you are interested in joining our group please let Bill Gebbie know by sending a message to porirua3a@gmail.com or by texting Bill on 0276770180. We will meet at the entrance to Te Rito Gardens at 10.50. If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact Bill on 0276770180.