

Sanctuary Mahi Whenua

Sustainability – Community Project

January 2022

Sanctuary Mahi Whenua is a garden sanctuary located in West Auckland in the Mount Albert Unitech Campus. Mahi Whenua represents the importance of cultivating plants and food, bringing communities together by embracing strong passions for gardening and agriculture whilst preserving rich sources of urban biodiversity. The historic settlement is used for educational opportunities, teaching people about the history & significance of the settlement, as well as fostering sustainable principles and providing a lush green haven in amongst the concrete city.

The Sanctuary Mahi Whenua's garden was established by Brendan Hoare, Richard Main, and Unitech Students in 1998. However, the settlement itself dates to 1841, as Pre-European Maori gardening implements were found by Richard Main in 2007 and are now preserved in the Unitech Marae. Sanctuary Mahi Whenua is a sacred and significant part of the local Maori culture and history, which is being lovingly maintained.

Mahi Whenua garden is also a local hotspot for schools to bring children for learning opportunities related to horticulture. Local restaurants are welcome to buy fresh herbs and Auckland Zoo animals regularly receive crates of spinach and native Puha. Mahi Whenua has also gifted Kūmara to low decile schools and women's refuge. Each of these initiatives exemplify their beliefs around sustaining a strong community and looking after all those who are a part of it.



Globe Artichoke (*Cynara scolymus*).



Trevor Crosby (Treasurer – Sanctuary Mahi Whenua)
Dale Olsen (Iplex Marketing Manager) & Sze Mun Tan
(Sustainability Intern).

Ngā akoranga hei tohatoha
Learning to share



**Delivering Pipelines to
New Zealand**

Sanctuary Mahi Whenua

Sustainability – Community Project

January 2022

The sanctuary is run entirely by volunteers and families who come together once a month for a working bee where they harvest food, pull weeds, minimise waste through recycling and educate the public on the importance of Eco structures. As well as being run by local volunteers, the sanctuary is also focused on developing localised solar energy to help power their operation.

Iplex was keen to be involved with Sanctuary Mahi Whenua to gain a better understanding of what is happening with water usage and harvesting in an urban environment. Also, to participate in a community project that is making a positive impact in an array of areas both for the environment and the people in it.

Iplex supported by providing Iplex Greenline™ (a metric OD diameter polyethylene (PE) pipe manufactured to AS/NZS 4130 used for water reticulation), combined with easy-to-use Plasson compression fittings. The pipes will act as water feeds, taking water from the main water storage tanks to outlet points around the sanctuary. The sanctuary relies on water to make sure that all the plants in the garden are well nourished and can thrive.



Sanctuary Mahi Whenua Gardens.



Iplex PE Greenline Pipe.

Ngā akoranga hei tohatoha
Learning to share



**Delivering Pipelines to
New Zealand**