



Friends of  
Taupo Swamp  
& Catchment

Hi Swamp Supporters

We have been busy through the last few months...

- We have had four volunteer days for clearing blackberry close to Ulric St. About 2500 sq m has been cleared. You can now see the tremendous re-growth of Carex plants. Altogether our FOTSC group has now spent hundreds of voluntary hours either on site, or planning for the restoration.
- About 40 people turned out in a wet, cold southerly for our first planting day last month and quickly planted about 300 trees.
- Last Saturday we combined with the local NZ Motor Caravans Assn people for a very productive working bee. Again, we had about 40 volunteers planting, weeding, staking and putting in coir weed-mat protectors. There are now another 350 trees and plants in the ground down near the Ulric Street bridge area in Plimmerton, appreciating the rain we have had in the last day.
- NZMCA have given us a \$2000 grant for trees & they are supporting the project with irrigation and further planting on their land. Other local businesses are keen to contribute time and effort.
- The spraying work that was carried out by GWRC in February has resulted in a great knock back in blackberry. A few months ago PCC staff mulched a section of the blackberry and wattle. This is the area that we have now planted.
- We are now working on plans to have more of the fringes of the swamp ready for planting next year. PCC has agreed to assist us with blackberry control.
- Plimmerton Farm Development: we continue to communicate with key parties over this development, which will potentially have a massive impact on the swamp system for which we advocate.
- Electioneering is in full swing. Many of the candidates are supportive of our efforts to protect Taupo Swamp. Come along to the PRA meeting at **Mana Cruising Club at 7 pm Thur 26 Sept** and ask potential Councillors for their track record about Taupo Swamp. Some have done their homework, some are saying the 'right words'!
- We'd love some more help – there is much to do and we are really stretched! Let us know if you have some special skills that can be utilised by FOTSC. (fundraising, grant applications, wetlands knowledge, Social Media communications, financial management, wetlands protection from urban development....)

Sept 24 2019