



Friends of
Taupo Swamp
& Catchment

DEC 2019: Hi Swamp People

Thank you for your 2019 support of the restoration of Taupo Swamp/ wetlands as we look forward to 2020.

- Through the spring months we have planted more than 1000 wetland trees and plants grown from local eco-sourced seeds. (Thanks Te Rito Gardens, and the hort team at Porirua City Council). FOTSC raises money for every one of those plants. *Every plant is staked, then protected with a coir mat and a coir wrap which eventually biodegrade.*
- As a result of the heavy rain last night, most of those trees are now under water so this will be a real test of their resilience. The bamboo stakes in the photos have a tree alongside. All are wetland trees, so should have a good chance of survival if the flood drops quickly. All those supporters who have been praying for rain can now stop!



- Through the summer months we will be clearing the weeds/emerging blackberry from around those 1000 trees and plants.
- We have clear space for about 600 more trees that we can plant late autumn. Porirua City Council have recently mulched the dead blackberry close to the two ponds.
- We were successful in winning a Greater Wellington Regional Council grant: GWRC have generously given us a new grant of \$14k spread over the next three years. This will go towards our FOTSC running costs, plants, clearing and associated volunteer costs. We are all volunteers so no-one gets paid.
- We are now following a longer term blackberry control plan. Firstly, GWRC spray the very big blocks of blackberry. Then when those die back we ask PCC to mulch the dead plants. The third stage is for FOTSC (that's you and me) to then clear and continue controlling the remaining plants and re-growth.
- GWRC have recently sprayed a large area of blackberry that runs upstream from our current planting area up to near the boundary with the QE11 NT-owned swamp. We are currently working on a planting plan for this area – we have to plan years ahead so the appropriate plants can be sourced and grown for us.
- FOTSC three year Rotary Project: Over and above our business as usual, we are talking with PCC about a plan for planting wetland trees/plants alongside the drain that runs across the Plimmerton Domain and around the railway side of the Domain. This will be in the area which surrounds the planned dogpark. This fits into a bid by NZ Rotary to coordinate a national tree planting plan for their centenary in 2020 & we have put forward a plan for planting 10,000 trees/plants around the Domain & the nearby wetlands over the next few years. We are expecting to know about this bid any day... watch this space.
- FOTSC continues to work on positive relationships with local businesses which are adjacent to the wetlands. Already, the New Zealand Motor Caravan's Association have given money, volunteer time, and a new irrigation system to the cause! Now we are working with other businesses on bund planting, money for signage etc. We are very grateful for this support.
- In 2019 we have enjoyed a very productive relationship with Conservation Volunteers NZ. We anticipate doing more with CVNZ in 2020 on a regular basis. Whitby Scouts are also keen to be regularly involved in our work.
- And along with all this, we have been actively engaged in conversations and submissions to local government, GWRC, The Minister of the Environment, the developers of the proposed Plimmerton Farm urban development... **We continue to advocate for the protection of the Taupo wetland and its catchment in every way we can.**
- **We'd love some more help in 2020** – 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. An hour or two a week would make a difference to us. Keen on partnership management, wetlands knowledge, Social Media communications, financial management (specific projects), Planning and consents, wetlands protection from urban development...? You can make a difference and the work of FOTSC really is very satisfying and tangible!