

FOTSC Jan 2020 Newsletter

- Friends of Taupo Swamp & Catchment are busy planning the 2020 roll out of the Taupo Swamp wetlands restoration project.
- Now with more funding in hand, planting plans are underway for the large areas of dead and cleared blackberry on-site – another 1000 trees/plants to go in this year ending June 30. Then another 600-800 later in the winter/spring.
- The 1200 trees from 2019 are largely intact and growing despite floods, winds & little rain.
- New planting won't start until the rains come – maybe May. Once again, we will be sourcing trees and plants from the local nursery run by Te Rito Trust here in Porirua. Some will also be purchased from the Porirua City Council nursery. The FOTSC restoration area is a 'Key Native Ecosystem', and we use locally sourced plants appropriate to the site.
- 2020 sees us talking to the Ulric Street businesses which share boundaries with the restoration site, and engaging them in whatever ways we can in the best interests of the wetlands.
- We are grateful for continuing support from a number of project partners: Greater Wellington Regional Council staff, Porirua City Council hort staff, local volunteers, the wonderful folk at Conservation Volunteers NZ & the New Zealand Motor Caravans' Association (whose land is adjacent to the Ulric Street planting site).

However, NOW we sure have a weed problem down there and need any community help we can get in order to free up those carefully protected trees. An hour or so of your time for easy weeding/clearing will make a difference on any of these days (yes, we are having a blitz!)

- **The weeding dates are: Wednesday 12 February between 9 & midday, Ditto 26 February, 11 March, 25 March, 8 April.**
- Meet in Ulric St by the foot-bridge to the new dog park. *We can supply gloves, rakes and a treat for morning tea (thanks in advance to our local sponsors: Roger at Plimmerton Deli, and New World, Mana).*