



Friends of  
Taupo Swamp  
& Catchment

7 September 2021

*Friends of Taupo Swamp & Catchment – update*

Kia ora FOTSC supporters – With level 2 upon us this week we are now planning to swing back in with onsite work, but for now, here is where we are at folks....

**Onsite work – update:**

- Covid has slowed us up, but the FOTSC winter planting season is progressing well around the sides of the bund adjacent to the NZ Composting site in Ulric Street, Plimmerton. We are now moving north along that boundary to get it weed free and planted.
- Thanks to Porirua City Council staff who are working with us to mulch dead blackberry along the boundaries of the businesses down there- we can now get in there this spring and plant around 900 specially grown trees which are all ready for us
- Most of the weeding of the last two years' plantings has been completed. In some areas the trees are now growing so well that they will need little further weeding. Very satisfying!
- *We've lost valuable volunteer days due to weather and to Covid, but please diary **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Thursday Oct 14 and Saturday Oct 30** for onsite work. You don't need to dig or to weed to be useful- there are plenty of small tasks we always need help with – even for an hour.*

## **Funding:**

- Applications are underway to cover our 2022 order for wetland plants and trees. We always work 12 months ahead and are grateful to **Te Rito Gardens** in Porirua for growing the eco sourced plants required for the wetlands. Raising money never stops – however we are very grateful to have recently received \$2500 from the **NZ Motor Caravans Association** 'GreenFund'. The new container for our volunteer base should be onsite at the NZ Composting site very soon. Thanks to the **Nikau Foundation** for covering a good portion of the cost of that.
- **Tatana Contracting**, who own the Ulric Street NZ Composting site have generously donated \$1500 towards the trees which we are planting on their wetland boundaries. *Thank you to all our funders – public and private – we couldn't undertake this restoration without your assistance and goodwill!*

## **Media:**

- FOTSC was runner up in the Environment section of the local Wellington Airport Awards & received a welcome donation.
- Bill and Judy presented a FOTSC update at the recent Residents' Association AGM here in Plimmerton. This proved to be a highly effective way to reach a diverse group and has resulted in some very positive feedback and some donations for very necessary local pest control. If there are any groups out there wanting a tailor made presentation about a recognised wetland restoration, now with over 6000 volunteer hours in three years - we are here to oblige! Get in touch...

## *People always ask how they can contribute:*

- Donate a bit of your time – planting/weeding/ admin/ social media/ financials/ inspiration/ funding...
- Purchase one of our \$20 rat traps (Thanks Plimmerton MenszShed) and set it up in your garden – the rats are out there now. Did you know they eat baby birds in the nest?
- Join a Pest Free Plimmerton trapping team – their work is key to what we are trying to achieve in and around the wetlands
- Join our friendly FOTSC committee – we don't have many meetings and we each do what we can – no pressure!

Ngā mihi

The FOTSC team

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