



Friends of
Taupo Swamp
& Catchment

Friends of Taupo Swamp & Catchment Inc (FOTSC)

Newsletter #2... Quick Update of the First Three Months of 2019

- We are registered as an **incorporated society**. The **Charitable Trust** status is nearly complete.
- The above FOTSC **logo** has been finalised (big thanks to Sabrina Malcolm for her hard work). Sabrina has created an image that perfectly captures the imagery of flowering flax, a tui and the surrounding hill-lines of the Taupo Swamp catchment.
- We have our own **e-mail address** (tauposwamp@gmail.com)
- The **website** is nearly built...www.tauposwamp.org Thank you Sabrina and Judy.
- Another important communication tool has been the **drone footage** of the PCC part of Taupo Swamp. If you haven't seen it yet, have a look on youtube and appreciate the skills of FOTSC supporter Tim Prebble https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta1_8-0YISM
- We are currently fine tuning **the plan** for how we are going to work on the swamp area shown in the drone footage. It is the area north of Plimmerton Domain and west of the Ulric St industrial area. We have proposed that the work be done over a three to five year period.
- We have support from PCC and GWRC for doing this restoration. The grant from GWRC of \$16.5 k will be used to cover the initial costs of setting up FOTSC and purchase of plants, trees and protection. We have also made an application to **DOC for a grant** of \$20k for plants, trees and protection spread over the next three years. We will need more than this to fund future plant and tree purchases so will be approaching local businesses and environmental funders.
- We appreciate the input from **Te Rito Nursery** in Porirua. We intend to utilise their locally eco-sourced plants for our planting program.
- The Wellington branch of Conservation Volunteers NZ are going to provide **volunteers** for starting invasive weed clearance on April 17. Then continuing May 1/May 15/May 29. After the first day we will have a better idea of how to involve local volunteers in the weed clearance and then planting.
- A **bank account** has been set up with Kiwi Bank.
- Tim Clark has been very helpful with **GIS** (Geographic Information System) **mapping** of the catchment.

- Plenty of support has come from dedicated supporters of **local conservation groups** (eg QE Park restoration team, Kapiti Forest & Bird, Friends of Mana Island, Nga Uruora and QE11 National Trust)
- **PCC** has nearly completed shredding the **blackberry** and other weeds on the banks of Taupo Stream adjacent to Plimmerton Domain.
- **GWRC** have sprayed some of the accessible **blackberry** on the northern side of the domain and in the rail corridor.
- We made written and oral **submissions to PCC Growth Strategy** about the importance of protecting Taupo Swamp and associated wetlands during and after the development of Plimmerton Farm.

What is happening over the next three months?

1. Complete the scoping of the "FOTSC area 1 " including the choice of plants from Te Rito Nursery.
2. Engage the involvement of more community volunteers to work on the PCC swamp/wetlands.
3. Continue talking with the Plimmerton Farm developers to obtain the best result for Taupo Swamp & Catchment.
4. Ensure that FOTSC is involved with GWRC and PCC decision-makers about the protection and improvement of Taupo Swamp.