



AWATOTO FIELD FLOOD RECOVERY – JUNE TO DECEMBER 2018

Before the flood.....

An image taken from a drone on 9th June of the club field by member Blair Jones.



And then it rained....

So..... on the 12th/13th June we then had a bit of water flood the field.....



And it rained some more....



We ended up going from this - at Warbirds 2018



To this... in mid June 2018 - after about 80mm odd of rain came down – once the sun came out, it revealed this.....



And this.....



And on the 10th August a few of us ventured down to the field for a closer look... We managed to walk over most of it but the silt, and while reasonably dry on top, was still really wet underneath. So... if you broke through the crust, you would then go in to the mud by a few inches. Far more on some parts of the field.
Both concrete starting pads have 'disappeared' and only one had a pole standing up, so we know where it is; the other, we are going to have to dig around for!
 Below is what we found....



Field from the top of the stop bank by the gate



Roadway... has had a contact grader down it.



Eastern end (near ocean) with new fence added.



Blocked creek from roadway



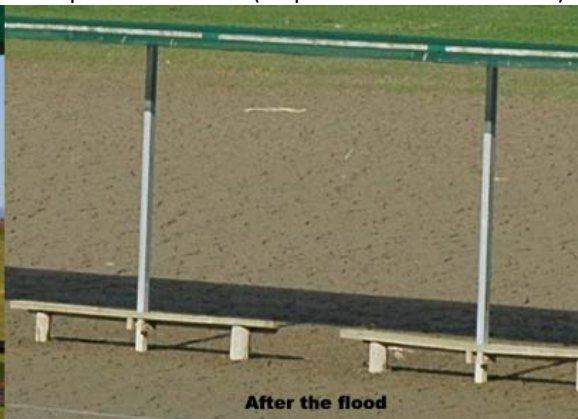
Blocked creek with standing water (now stagnant!)



Carpark and shelter (carpark has been harrowed)



Before the flood



After the flood

No caption required....!!



Field extension – very soft and wet!



Northern fence from the roadway
(Yes that is a table tied up in the fence!)

And then it rained....again on Wednesday the 5th September.

The field was just coming right and then....

The same old story - rain, rain and yet more rain and Lake Awatoto was back.



Yes, we had a tad more rain.... which made the field look like this.... (Pic from Brian Hitchcock)



And a day or two later – field is still there, but Not much grass!



In October a contractor was engaged by the committee to cultivate the worst parts of the field for us. He has inspected the field three times to have a closer look and take silt depth and moisture readings prior to starting the job. His plan of attack is to hoe the ground, leave it for a few days, then hoe again, leave it for yet another few days and then finally to roll the ground. He started work on the field early on Tuesday afternoon. Grass seed was also then sown in early November.

We then went from this....



To this... (starting to green up a bit)



And, finally, we finished up with this.... (panorama taken on 17th January 2019)



So....we (finally) now have our field back to almost normal operation again

A big Thank You to

- Model Flying New Zealand – for a sizable grant to help defray field recovery expenses.

And thanks also to:

- Phoenix Contracting – for spreading metal on the access road and carpark.
- Richard Coory from Turf N'Earth - for the field cultivation, rotary hoe and rolling.
- Bob Masters -for the grass seeding.
- And the members of MFHB that helped at working bees to restore the field.