



DRTNZ Newsletter No.1 Summer

Greetings everyone!

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand.

Having been in a state of flux for around twelve months while all the legal hoops were jumped through, it gives me great pleasure to be able to report the progress the Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand has been able to make since you last received our newsletter. We have now:

- Been officially registered as a Charitable Trust by the Ministry of Economic Development.
- Held three formal Trustee meetings (and many many informal discussions!)
- Welcomed Natalie Miller on board as the Trust Coordinator
- Designed and made live the initial www.dunestrust.org.nz website
- Are setting up our office systems (finance, membership, phones)
- Begun to collate some of our previously disparate information

I'm really looking forward to building upon our 10 years of working together for New Zealand's beaches and dunes and am now even more convinced that the change in structure to an independent Trust was a sound decision. There are already some really exciting possibilities being discussed for the future directions of the Trust. I look forward to discussing these with you in future editions of this newsletter, by phone, or even better at next year's conference in Wanganui.

On behalf of the other Trustees I'd like to offer our thanks to the ENSIS (ex-Forest Research) staff for all their efforts over the past years and also to Natalie for all the work she has done so far. We are all looking forward to working together from here!

Finally as this newsletter is going out to a range of audiences both in hard copy and by e-mail, I'd like to encourage you all to JOIN THE TRUST!! There are now a range of membership categories, listed over page. In addition the Trustees are conducting preliminary sponsorship investigations so if you know of organisations that share our aspirations and may want to develop a formal sponsor relationship, contact us. In the mean time have a great summer - I look forward to seeing you next year.

Harley

Web Site Up and Running

The new website is being designed by dabhand, a firm in Rotorua who previously worked on the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network site.

It will contain information about the trust, our newsletters and publications, hot off the press research and all our events.

The site will be fully operational in November. Check out:

www.dunestrust.org.nz





Research Update

Ohiwa backdune trials

Monitoring is continuing on a native species planting trial at Ohiwa Beach, eastern Bay of Plenty. The trial was planted in mid-2005 by the Whakatohea Trust, the Ohiwa Beach Coast Care group, Environment Bay of Plenty, Opotiki District Council and Ensis. The trial is comparing the performance of 12 coastal species planted on a relatively stable backdune site. These include tarakupenga, taupata, ti kouka, toetoe, akeake, koromiko, pohuehue, ngaio, tauhinu, harakeke, karo and houpara. For each species, survival and growth of seedlings raised in Tinus root trainers are being compared with those raised in the larger PB planter bags. Early results indicate significant differences in species preferences in three planting zones from weed-infested landward sites to more exposed open sites located seaward. The trial will be fully assessed in mid-2008 and a report prepared for the Dune Restoration Trust.

Dune reshaping trial completed

The final report for the foredune reshaping and planting trial at Oakura Beach, south-west of New Plymouth is completed. The trial was established in mid-2000 as a collaborative effort involving the New Plymouth District Council, Oakura Coast Care Group, Taranaki Regional Council and the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network. Planted native sand-binders successfully established a dense cover on the reshaped dune trapping sand for the first two years. In subsequent years, the entire beach sustained severe erosion. However, re-contouring of the foredune and planting with native sand-binders did not contribute to, or exacerbate erosion of the foredune.

Based on the results from the Oakura trial, the New Plymouth District Council have implemented an ongoing reshaping and planting programme along the northern coastal suburbs of New Plymouth over the last four years. Re-contouring and planting mainly spinifex and pingao at East End and Fitzroy beaches has seen significant trapping of sand. Foredunes have coped well with effects of occasional storms. While at an early stage, reshaping and planting appears to have obviated the need to continue the substantially more expensive option of armouring the beaches with rocks.

If you wish to obtain a black and white copy of this 34 page unpublished report, they are available free to members of the Dune Restoration Trust, or to non-members at \$10 each (colour copies are \$25 each).

Petone and Eastbourne dune trials

Rosie Doole of Hutt City Council was successful in obtaining support from the Sustainable Management Fund of MfE to build coast care partnerships in two harbour-side communities in Wellington. This includes establishing various planting trials to replace marram-grass dominated dunes with native species appropriate for these localities. Ensis has been contracted to assist in establishing community-based dune planting trials using both sand binders and back dune coastal species. The first backdune trial has been established along one section of the Petone beach and further trials will be established in the next few weeks.

Dr. David Bergin ENSIS

International Conference on Sand Dune Restoration

Santander Spain was the location for the inaugural International Conference on Coastal Dunes, held in early October. Harley Spence, Mark Dean and Dr. David Bergin wrote a paper about the formation and building successes of the Dune Restoration Trust (formerly the CDVN). Harley presented the paper (with simultaneous Spanish translation!) to a hall packed with delegates. If you would like a copy of the paper contact Natalie or Harley.

One of the key outcomes of the Conference was an agreement to set up an international network for sand dune restoration. Harley made contact with a range of international sand dune restoration and management experts that the Trust can develop links with. We have already contributed to the latest United Kingdom Sand Dune and Shingle Network newsletter. We look forward to developing international funding and research partnerships for the Dunes Trust.

Thanks to the Lotteries Ministers Discretionary Fund for funding this project

Introducing Our Trust Coordinator

Hi everyone. My name is Natalie Miller and I am very happy to introduce myself as your new Dune Trust Coordinator. I look forward to working with the Trustees and the Trust's many supporters in the promotion of our work.

I come to you with a back ground in financial and office administration. For 10 years I was employed in the banking industry. During that time I spent two years as a Mobile Relationship Banker, developing good business relationships with our client base; and five years as a Relationship Banker based in the office - again, assisting to develop strong business relationships as well as working to increase our clients' total business with the Bank. For the last 17 months I have been the Office Administrator at a Sawmill Maintenance and Engineering firm.

I have resided in Rotorua for eight years. My husband Peter and I have three children and family plays a very important part in my life. I enjoy walking, fishing, and playing squash and have recently joined a Toastmasters club. I have served on many committees in the past five years and enjoy meeting people and working as part of a team to solve problems and achieve goals.

My main objective as the Trust Coordinator is to work with the Trustees on the promotion of the Trust's work and to further develop relationships the Trust already has with organizations and individuals.

During my first 12 months I will be setting-up the Trust's financial accounting system, sending out our bi-annual Newsletter, creating a new membership database, and researching and advising the Trustees on opportunities for future sponsorship.

I have a personal interest in the health and restoration of sand dunes. My family enjoys summer holidays at the beach. We have seen the deterioration of the dunes; we know the problem is a pressing one. The restoration of the dunes is an urgent task and one in which the goodwill and physical efforts of many people are required.

I welcome suggestions and ideas on running the Trust. I look forward to meeting many of you and to working with you all.

Natalie

Membership Database

WE NEED YOU!

All of our CDVN membership information is stored within ENSIS (Formally Forest Research Institute). For privacy reasons we are unable to access this information, which means we need to create our own database.

Creating our own database allows us to make sure we have your details correct. It also means you can tell us how you would like us to contact you - either by post or email.

Please fill in the enclosed membership form with your correct details and send it back to:

Natalie Miller
DRTNZ Coordinator
P.O. Box 910
Rotorua 3040

New Membership Categories!

Individual and families: \$ 25 p/a

Small non profit organisations: \$ 25 p/a

Small business (<25 staff): \$ 200 p/a

Large non-profit organisation,
Large Corporate, Council: \$ 500 p/a

Research Partners:

Includes voting rights that define the Trusts research priorities. Contact the Trust for details.

Silver	\$2500 p/a
Gold	\$4500 p/a
Platinum	\$9500 p/a

Thank you for your continued support!

Great Barrier Island sand dunes and walkway. Photo: Coastline Consultants

Dune Restoration Trust of NZ: National Conference 2008

Date: 5th-7th March 2008

Venue: Wanganui

Accommodation

There's accommodation for about 60 (if folk are happy to share) about five minutes walk from the venue. There are also motels a couple of km in either direction.

Theme

This will be a 'back to your roots' conference - supporting the local club, local catering, holiday park accommodation, cheap beers from the yacht club bar and a BBQ dinner on the beach. Our field trip will be a beach walk to remind us why we do what we do. A good time for reflection on where we have come from and inspiration for the coming year.

For more information contact *Graeme La Cock*

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Keeping our dunes alive