

Words from our Chair...

Well, things are really happening in the Dunes Trust at the moment. Three new trustees have been appointed and a very successful and extremely busy meeting of all the Trustees was held recently in Rotorua. You may well ask why a Dunes Trust met there, so far from any dunes- well it worked out to be the most cost effective place to get everyone together.

The Trust meeting endorsed the extensive planning and preparation work that a small team led by David Bergin has done to prepare for our major project funded by MfE. This project will deliver a series of workshops around the country on Dune Restoration and Climate Change. On the 18th October we held the first of these one day workshops at Baylys Beach on the west coast of Northland. It was a most successful event with over 60 people attending - double what we had expected. Not only was the day a great success it provided an opportunity for the organisers and the presenters to fine tune the programme so future events will be even better. It has been really great to see the level of commitment from both local volunteers and local councils to the cause of dune care. Thanks must go to the Baylys Beach committee and the Northland Regional Council staff who helped make the day a success. The next workshop is to be held at Port Waikato on the 6th December - all welcome.

As part of the MfE project the Dunes Trust has been able to get publicity material printed and this has already proved its worth in getting new members on board. We also recently published the results of two trials that have now been completed and these have been distributed to our research partner members. Work is now underway to publish a Dune restoration Handbook that will eventually become the reference for all involved in Dune Care work. Planning is well underway for the next Dune Conference to be held at Piha in March next year. If you have not already done so, mark your calendars for the 18th - 20th March 2009. Be warned -places will be limited this time so get your registrations in early.

Also, fairwell to Ngaire Tyson who has been a long standing member of the CDVN and a DRTNZ Trustee over the past year. Ngaire, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the cause. We look forward to working with you again in the future and wish you all the best for your impending twins!!

Mark Dean, Chairperson

Events

Port Waikato Workshop

6th December, 2008

Free event, all welcome!

Download registration form from www.dunestrust.org.nz or natalie@dunestrust.co.nz.

Piha Conference

18th - 20th March, 2009

Earlybird registrations open now! See back page for details.

Web Site Updated

Our website has recently been updated with the latest research reports and a schedule of events.

www.dunestrust.org.nz

Welcome to New Trustees Robyn Smith, Justin Cope and Greg Bennet



Robyn Smith

I've worked with native NZ plants for most of my life, growing threatened species and restoring native plant communities. For the past seven years I've worked on a small back dune site at my local beach, Titahi Bay, to determine what would grow there. As a Park Board member, I also initiated restoring a wetland and sand dune community in Whitireia Park. I have a passion for native plants, restoration and coastal dune communities. I work for Greater Wellington Regional Council as the team leader of the Community Environmental Projects team who support 36 community groups around the Region - including eight dune restoration groups.



Justin Cope

I've worked at Environment Canterbury since 1997 as a Coastal Resources Officer and since 2003 as the Coastal and Fluvial Resources Scientist. I've been involved with the Dunes Trust and precursor CDVN since the beginning. As a Coastal Geomorphologist I am particularly interested in the form and function of coastal dune systems and in particular the important role they play as natural buffers against coastal hazards. I remember growing up playing and exploring all over the dunes along the Christchurch coastline but now I almost always uses the formed access tracks!!



Greg Bennet

I have a passion for the New Zealand coastal environment and have been a supporter of the CDVN, now Dunes Trust since 2003. I'm actively involved in the Amberley Beach Coast Care and in 2003, as an engineer with the Hurunui District Council, was involved in the renourishment of Amberley Beach with 10,000m³ of gravel. I presented a paper on the project to the 2004 Ingenium Conference and was awarded the Hynds Paper of the Year. In 2005, seeing a need for total beach management, I instigated the Pegasus Bay Coast Care. In 2006 I received a Canterbury Resource Management Award for services to Coast Care.

Research Update

Adapting to Climate Change

Our three year project aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of coastal dunes in mitigating predicted impacts of climate change is well underway. The project involves running a nationwide series of workshops, developing a database of Coast Care groups, producing display materials and publishing a comprehensive technical handbook on dune restoration and management. The project is funded and resourced by the Sustainable Management Fund (Ministry for the Environment), the Dunes Trust, local community groups and agencies. The first workshop, held recently in Northland, was very successful, attracting around 60 people. The second workshop will be on December 6th at Port Waikato. Two further workshops are planned for Wellington and Christchurch early next year. Banners and tear-drop flags have been produced and a start has been made on the design and proposed contents for the Handbook.

New Chair for Research Committee

Justin Cope, one of our Trustees from the Canterbury region, is now chairing the Research Committee of the Dunes Trust. One of the tasks of the Research Committee will be continuing to develop a research strategy for the Trust as well as exploring opportunities to increase the number of Research Associates in order to provide greater co-funding for research projects. The Research Committee is particularly keen in investigating ways in which the Dunes Trust can encourage more students into coastal research projects.

Completion of research projects

Two research projects have been recently completed by the Dunes Trust. Firstly, the completion of the third year assessment of a backdune planting trial at Ohiwa Spit, Bay of Plenty, comprising 12 coastal native ground cover, shrub and tree species. Secondly, a review of the spinifex planting trials and the spinifex planting programme that have been underway for a decade at several sites along the Christchurch foredunes. You can download the research reports from www.dunestrust.org.nz.

David Bergin



Attendees to the Northland Adapting to Climate Change workshop walked along Baylys Beach and heard from local Coast Care members about winter storm damage and restoration work.

Michael Bergin



Laura Shaft, Coast Care Coordinator, Northland Regional Council gave an opening address at the Bayleys Beach Climate Change workshop to around 60 participants.

Michael Bergin



Community groups set up a great range of displays at the Northland workshop including traditional uses, vehicles on beaches and restoration activities.

Michael Bergin

Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to Climate Change Workshop

When: Saturday 6th December 2008, 10am - 4pm

Where: Port Waikato Hall, Sunset Beach, Port Waikato

Workshop is free including morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch. All welcome but please register for catering purposes by 3rd December. Download a registration form from www.dunestrust.org.nz or pick up from the Franklin District Council.

Topics include: natural dune form and function, restoration of sand dunes with native plants and the role of the local community.

Workshop 2 - Port Waikato

Why hold a climate change seminar at Port Waikato?

I was first involved in dune management issues at Port Waikato in 1993. Apparently there "had been a bit of erosion" that needed looking at. That "bit of erosion" took the best part of five years to get under control and there were two critical aspects of achieving this:

1. The formation and ongoing commitment from members of the Port Waikato Beach Care group both in planting working bees and communicating to locals and visitors how important and fragile the dunes are.
2. The re-establishment of native sand binding grasses on the dune which enabled the dunes to rebuild themselves back to their natural state.

However, re-establishing a natural dune system does not "stop erosion" of a beach. Parts of the beach have at times over the last 15 years retreated in response to storm events, and subsequently recovered. In the last few months foredune erosion has been dramatic (see photos). Sure there have been some wild storm events, but on the other hand, this erosion may be signalling a more dramatic and long term retreat of the shoreline. Right now, Port Waikato is a great case study to look at and talk through the possibilities. Come along and be involved in this free 'Adapt to Climate Change' workshop. See you there!

Harley Spence



Waitohu Streamcare Wins NZ Plant Conservation Network Award!

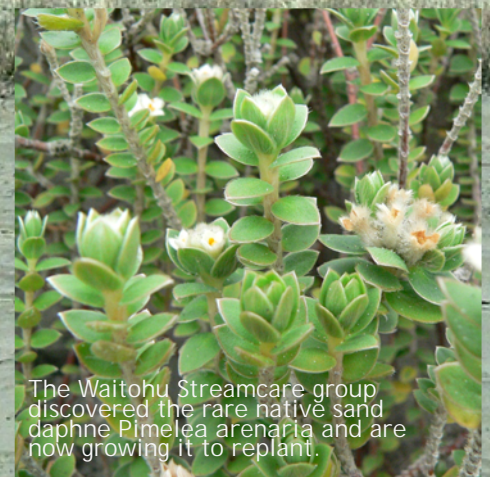
The Waitohu Streamcare group recently won the community group award at the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network awards for their outstanding achievements restoring riparian, wetland and dune communities around the Waitohu River and beach.

Members of the local community at Otaki Beach formed the Waitohu Streamcare group in 1999 to improve the riparian environment of Waitohu Stream. They built their own nursery in 2000 and since have produced thousands of native seedlings which have been planted to stabilise the Waitohu stream banks and provide habitat for local native fauna and to restore native sand dune plant species.

Following the success of their riparian and wetland plantings in the lower reaches of the Waitohu stream, the group moved on to begin restoration of the sand dune communities around the mouth of the Waitohu Stream. They are now funded by the Take Care programme with Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The dunes at the mouth of the Waitohu River were marram dominated and were constantly blowing out. The group began by planting spinifex and pingao in the seaward dunes and used driftwood to protect the young plants from the ravages of the wind. They erected simple post and tape fences to prevent vehicles driving on the beach and dunes and fences for rabbit protection. With the foredune vegetation growing well, the group is now planting mid and backdune species. Members attend weekly working bees to either grow, plant or release around their plantings. One of most impressive outcomes of their work is the way they have really pulled together a positive community spirit. Congratulations!

Robyn Smith



DRTNZ National Conference 2009

"Where the Land Meets the Sea - West of Auckland"

18th-20th March 2008 - Piha Surf Club, Marine Parade, Piha

Earlybird registrations open now! To qualify for the Earlybird discount, be sure to register and make payment before 10th February 2009. Download a registration form at www.dunestrust.org.nz.

On the Programme: Community Driven Restoration; Back Dune Management; Vehicles on Beaches; Current Research; Regional Round Up session to exchange ideas and successes! Field trips to Te Henga/Bethells, Muriwai and Piha Beaches to see the wild west in action. Conference dinner with live local music!

Contacts for further information

Conference Coordinator: Pat La Roche email. tuivale@pl.net

Registrations: Natalie Miller email. natalie@dunestrust.org.nz

Accommodation: Bobbie Carroll email. bobbiec@attglobal.net

Conference Awards are back!!!!

The Dunes Trust is pleased to announce two new awards to be presented at our Annual Conference in Piha. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.dunestrust.org.nz from 1st December 2008. The awards are:

'Best Coastal Dune Restoration Project' - Sponsored by Naturally Native New Zealand Plants Limited

'Best Community Group Award' - Sponsored by Taupo Native Plant Nursery Limited



Words from our Conference Coordinator...

It all started one sunny morning in early February 2008. I was walking along Piha Beach, thinking about how much had been achieved since Piha Coastcare began in 2002, and how much more we had to do, and all the hurdles we had encountered on the way. And then I thought about how good it would be to share our experiences in this magical place with other people who understood what it was all about. And then I thought about inviting the Dune Restoration Trust to hold their 2009 Conference in Piha. So here we are, an energized Steering Committee, working hard to make sure that the 2009 Dune Restoration Trust Conference will be one everyone will remember for all the best reasons.

In Piha we have restored dunes, dunes under restoration and dunes badly needing restoration. We have great surf. We have beautiful scenery. We have a community fired up and ready to make you all welcome. We have accommodation ranging from upmarket luxury through to surfclub bunks at \$20 per night. We have a surprise or two! We have a programme that we think will be stimulating and inspiring. We have field trips that will be enjoyable, informative and fun.

All we need now are early registrations to fill the 120 allocated places so that we can confidently accommodate you all (beds!) and concentrate on giving you as great an experience as we can. Registrations and information at www.dunestrust.org.nz and the Piha website <http://www.pihabeach.co.nz/Piha-Dunes-Restoration-Trust-Copnference-2009.htm>.

Pat La Roche

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