



Behind the Scenes
Whitianga 2015

2015 DUNE RESTORATION TRUST CONFERENCE: WHITIANGA: 11-13 March 2015

Conference Programme

Wednesday 11 March

- 08.30 – 09.00 **Registration**
- 09.00 – 09.15 **Opening and Welcome**
- 09.15 – 10.00 **Key note 1: Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels** - Dr Carl Walrond from Office of Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
- 10.00 – 10.20 Morning Tea
- 10.20 – 10.45 **Local tangata whenua presentation: Cultural values of local dunes and coast**
- 10.45 – 11.30 **Coromandel coastal dunes – archaeological and cultural values** - Dr Louise Furey
- 11.30 – 12.00 **Coromandel beaches – overview of coastal processes and dune management** - Jim Dahm
- 12.00 – 12.45 Lunch
- 12.45 – 5.30 **Field trip – Coastal Dunes of Buffalo, Cooks and Hotwater Beaches** - Led by Jim Dahm, Scott Farrell and Dr David Bergin – plus input from community volunteers
- **Southern Buffalo Beach:** Inspection and discussion of dune restoration and rocks vs dunes in management of coastal erosion (1 hr)
 - Ferry across Whitianga Harbour to Ferry Landing and meet buses (0.5 hr)
 - **Cooks Beach:** Inspection/discussion of restoration of native-dominated dune communities at severely degraded sites over past 5 years; Erosion issues at eastern end; Weed control and natural dune remnants at western end (1 hr)
 - Travel to Hotwater Beach (0.25 hr)
 - **Hotwater Beach:** Inspection of dune restoration and remnant natural dune ecosystems. Also, an interactive activity on dune monitoring (1.5 hrs)
 - Return to Whitianga by bus and ferry (0.5 hr) – back between 5:30-6:00 pm
- 7:00 – 10:00 Conference Dinner - Whitianga Hotel

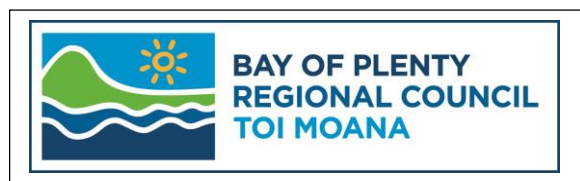




Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Thursday 12 March

- 9.00 – 5.00 **Bus field trip to beaches north of Whitianga – Whangapoua to Otama** - Led by Jim Dahm, Dr Louise Furey, Dr David Bergin and Scott Farrell
- 9:00 – 9:35 Travel Whitianga to Whangapoua Beach via bus - bus departs 9am sharp
- 9:35 – 10:50 **Whangapoua Beach:** Inspection and discussion of:
- Management of severe coastal erosion using sand push-ups and dune repair in preference to rock walls (includes local beachfront landowner input)
 - Backdune restoration of severely weed infested sites to native dominated communities including threatened species (Dunes Trust demonstration trial site)
- 10:50 – 11:40 **Kuaotunu West:** Travel to site and discussion of:
- Significant (archaic) archaeological site and erosion damage – including implications for dune restoration.
 - Backdune (incl. shrubland) restoration (1990's plantings)
 - Coastal flooding/dune restoration/stream erosion management issues
- 11:40 – 12:10 **Kuaotunu East** – Travel to site and brief inspection and discussion of dune restoration and difficult weed maintenance issues (including yucca/agave). Includes brief stop Kuaotunu store and convenience
- 12:10 – 3:30 **Otama Beach** – One of the largest undeveloped natural duneland areas remaining on the Coromandel.
- Field trip will arrive at home of well-known NZ artists Michael Smither and Gian McGregor at 12:30 – lunch and discussion of Otama with Michael & Gian
- Then field inspection of Otama dunes – including:
- exploring and discussing the natural remnant duneland communities (various)
 - discussing cultural and archaeological values (led by Dr Furey and local iwi)
 - interactive work on dune monitoring (led by Dr David Bergin)
 - shared discussion and learnings/implications for dune restoration
- 3:30 – 4:00 Afternoon tea with Michael and Gian
- 4:00 – 4:45 Sarah's Gully and Mount Pahanga: Inspection and discussion (from Opito Bay road) of 2 of NZs most important archaeological/cultural sites (Dr Louise Furey)
- 4:45-5:30 Return to Whitianga
- 7.00pm Your choice – join informal get-together on beach (bring own meal) or choose to dine out at one of the many local restaurants



Friday 13 March (Whitianga Town Hall)

- 08.30 – 09.00 **Trust Presentation-** Report on the year to date (Chairperson - Greg Bennett)
- 09:00 – 09:40 **Key note 2 – State of NZ Beaches** - Environmental Defence Society
- 09:40 – 10:10 **Key Note 3 – Working with Nature: Ethnography of soft coastal protection practices in Aotearoa** - Dr Friederike Gesing, Bremen University, Germany
- 10:10 – 10:30 **Dotterel management on Coromandel beaches** – Hayden Smith, DOC
- 10:30 – 10:50 Morning Tea

Regional Roundups – Update and Overview of local Regional Restoration Programmes

- 10:50 – 11:15 **Dune restoration work in Northland** – Laura Shaft, NRC
- 11:15 - 11:40 **Overview of dune restoration in Bay of Plenty** - Pim de Monchy, BoPRC
- 11:40 – 12:05 **Waikato Region – overview of Waikato west coast dune restoration** - Sam Stephens, WRC
- 12:05 – 12:45 Lunch (provided)

Regional Roundups – Site Specific Presentations

- 12:45 – 3:00 Various presentations on dune restoration projects and experience from sites around NZ. PowerPoints required - 10 min presentations and 5 mins for questions/discussion.
- 3.00 – 3:30pm Conference wrap up and conclusion

