

Coastal Neighbours

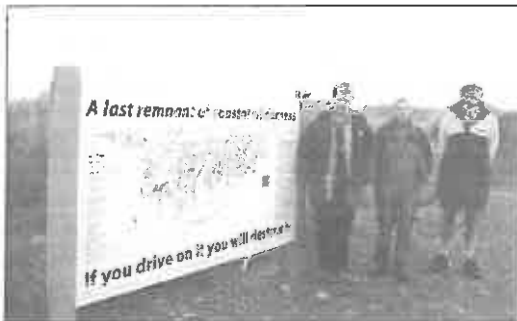
Newsletter
No. 1

Hello Coastal Neighbours.

It has been very encouraging to visit our beaches and to encounter your enthusiasm, your hard work - and your hospitality! Thanks to the groups at Wainu, Mowhanau, Castlecliff, Koitiata, Moana Roa, Tangimoana, Himatangi Beach and Foxton Beach. No doubt formal meetings will be in abeyance for the festive season, but we hope to catch up with you in the 2004. Our intention is to bring you together to share information and support in your endeavours, successes and setbacks. In the meantime have a restful break and use the opportunity to spread enthusiasm for Coastal Care among your seasonal visitors.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Tangimoana



Pictured here are (left to right) Hilary Reivyn, artist, Hilary Oxley, representing the coastal care group and Tim Gilbertson of DOC

This fine interpretation board has been erected next to the Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve. It brings together the artistic skills and knowledge of residents and iwi, with data and materials from DOC. Its placing in the car park ensures that visitors are greeted with details of rare and endangered plants and birds. Returning from the estuary walk, visitors are then reminded of the same message with a brightly coloured representation of the local wildlife

Painted on the other side of the board by the pupils of Tangimoana School.



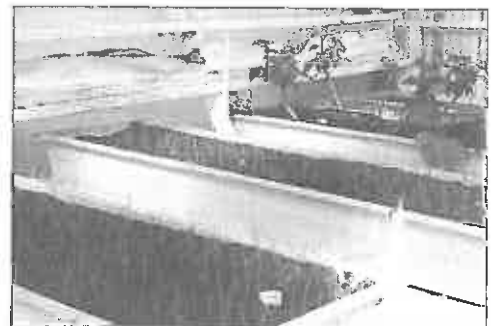
Tangimoana School painting

Koitiata



Arnold Nation

There has been a lot of interest in Arnold Nation's hydroponic propagation of native sand grasses. With co-coastal care worker, Peter Fraser, Arnold has successfully germinated at least 300 pingao and well over 300 spinifex seedlings over the winter. Inside the hydroponic greenhouse, new spinifex shoots are still emerging between well established seedlings. Outside, Arnold stands among the pingao plants which are toughening up in the real world ready for dune planting.



Arnold's hydroponics



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Wanganui Intermediate School

With a grant from DOC and generous discounts from local retailers, Wanganui Intermediate School is setting up a propagation and irrigation system to grow more native coastal plants. Children and adults will be jointly involved in collecting and germinating pingao and spinifex seeds, and in taking cuttings to produce more of the local coprosmas. The automatic watering system will ensure that seeds and cuttings will survive the holiday periods.

The Pink Weed

Well done to all of you who have been pulling pink ragwort. It is pretty but extremely invasive and seeds prolifically in coastal dunes. It is good to see some of the farmers and more 'inland' residents joining in the fight.

DID YOU KNOW?

DOC is planning a regular survey of about 10 kilometres of coastline between Santoft and Moana Roa Beach to monitor whether the katipo spider is in decline. The spider is on the endangered list but no one really knows the pace at which it is declining. Previous efforts to count katipo in the area have been hampered by shifting sands destroying test areas. Staff will count the number of katipo living at set intervals throughout the dune area. They'll also note the habitat, whether there are egg sacs and webs, and also whether the South African *Steatoda capensis* is present. This introduced spider is faster breeding and believed to be impacting seriously on the katipo habitat and population. Sightings of either spider would be good to know about.

Differences between the katipo and the *steatoda capensis*

Katipo	Steatoda
Has distinctive red flash	No red flash
Females stay within small territorial area	Females move around a lot
Tunnel like entrance to web	Web more open, less concentrated
White egg sacs	Pink egg sacs
Only reproduce in late spring/early summer	Seem to reproduce all year round

COMING UP!

Time to start thinking about Sea Week (March 7- 11). The theme will be "Our amazing Marine Life - Let's Protect It". It would be good to cover the whole coast with a series of beach walks. These could involve some serious cleanup work, some observational studies, guided information walks, and of course - some fun! Watch this space....

This is your newsletter - if you have any queries, comments or contributions please contact:

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