

Keeping our Dunes Alive

Newsletter Summer 2011



Greetings from 'The Chair'....

I would like to wish all our members and supporters the very best season's greetings and hope the coming year is kind to you all. 2011 has been a memorable year for the Dunes Trust in a number of ways. Sadly, many of our Trustees and members were involved in the Christchurch earthquakes and/or the Rena grounding. For those who were involved in these events, let's hope the coming year is a little less eventful in the disaster department. On the positive side, the Dunes Trust has never been so active.

We started with a really successful conference at Ohope Beach and have since completed two major projects – the workshop series on dune systems and climate change, and a scoping study on adapting productive coastal lands to likely climate change impacts. We have also been successful in our applications for funding a major backdune research project, a scoping study on the end-user needs for a coastal ecosystems database, and a website upgrade. All this represents a considerable investment in new research and the dissemination of information which is what the Dune Restoration Trust is all about.

I would also like to thank Quinovic for their generous contribution to the research process with their funding of our first student scholarship.

I urge you all to seriously consider attending our 2012 conference in the Far North. It's going to be a fantastic event not to be missed. I look forward to meeting you there!

Conference 2012 Registrations Open

Taonga O Te Hiku O Te Ika - Treasures of the Far North

14-17th February, Taipa, Northland

Northland Regional Council, Taipa Beach Improvement Society and Taipa School are hosting our annual Dunes Trust conference in Taipa, Northland this year.

Field trips include visits to several CoastCare sites and a trip along Te Oneroa a Tohe (90 Mile Beach). We have a great range of workshops including weaving with pingao, dealing with coastal weeds and developing a user-friendly coastal ecosystems database.

Transport is provided from both Whangarei and Kerikeri airports to and from the venue and there is a range of accommodation available. For further information:

Local Conference Coordinator:
Laura Shaft
Northland Regional Council
lauras@nrc.govt.nz
0800 002 004

Registrations & Sponsors Information:
Kirsten Crawford
www.dunestrust.org.nz info@dunestrust.org.nz
0272785646



In October the Dunes Trust Chairperson, Mark Dean was awarded the Loder Cup for outstanding achievement in conservation. In presenting the award, Hon. Kate Wilkinson, Minister of Conservation, stated that:

"Mark has made an outstanding contribution throughout his lifetime working in the horticultural industry specialising in native flora. He has spent much of the past 30 years inspiring others as an advisor, teacher and role model both within the horticultural industry and in community conservation projects."

Congratulations Mark, from the Trust!

For more information see <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/events-and-awards/awards>





Living Legends and the Dunes Trust team-up in Taranaki and Northland

The Dunes Trust backdune project is in its sixth month now and have just partnered with Living Legends to set up monitoring projects at the Taranaki and Northland backdune sites.

The Living Legends project, establishing a conservation legacy of the Rugby World Cup, is a five year programme led by Project Crimson, involving the planting of 17 sites throughout New Zealand, each dedicated to a local rugby legend. The first of three planting years was held around the Rugby World Cup in September and saw local communities establish 83,000 native plants across the country. Two more planting years will move this total to 170,000.

Two of the planting sites, the New Plymouth coastal walkway, and the Uretiti rest area south of Whangarei, are also backdune sites. Living Legends is delighted to see these two areas included in the Dunes Trust backdune monitoring programme. Living Legends sponsors, the Department of Conservation, the Tindall Foundation, and Meridian Energy, are keen to see the widest possible community involvement in these sites, and any contribution they might make to our understanding of backdune restoration is an added bonus!

Gordon Hosking Operations Manager, Living Legends



Ministry for the Environment Team head into the backdunes...



Staff of the Ministry for the Environment's Community Environment Fund spent a morning with the Dunes Trust on the dunes in the Bay of Plenty in early December. This included Funds Analyst Eileen Delahunty who is our project fund manager, Funds Team Analyst Emma Bonner, and Funds Team Senior Analyst Dave Wilson. Several from the Dunes Trust – Mark Dean, Murray McAlonan, Michael Bergin and David Bergin – were there to show them the work underway by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the local communities at sites from the Mount, Papamoa and Maketu Spit.

As part of the backdune project, partially funded by the Ministry, the Dunes Trust is working with these local communities and councils to help quantify the performance of planted backdune species. This includes areas of encroachment along parts of the coast at Papamoa that are being replaced by native plants and transects established across the dune at Maketu Spit.



Waikirikiri Lagoon, Komene Road, Okato (left). Taranaki Regional Council has implemented a restoration programme. Backdune species will be planted around the lagoon and other inland zones and local community groups will be involved in monitoring plant performance.



Thanks Community Post!

New Zealand Post through their Community Post programme has provided the Dunes Trust with 500 pre-paid envelopes for our work on the backdune project. We really appreciate your support!

2012 conference topic!





Dunes Trust Trustees and members play key role in the Rena Clean up

When the container ship Rena ran aground off the Bay of Plenty the whole country entered a very steep learning curve - just how do we respond to, and clean up, a major oil spill? The initial official response followed the international best practice procedures - keep the public away and send in formal response teams as resources allowed.

350 tonnes of heavy fuel oil was washed onto the some of the most popular beaches in the country and it became obvious that "the locals" weren't going to sit around and wait for officials to "get around to cleaning our beach". The Bay of Plenty Regional Council Coast Care programme - lead by Pim de Monchy - became the critical team around which the procedures were developed to get volunteers on and off the beach safely and in a manner that complemented the official response. The volunteer's efforts became a crucial component of ensuring the oil was removed as quickly as possible. This involved organizing over 100 working bees using more than 16,000 hours of volunteer time.



Drawing on their experience in coastal environments, Dunes Trust Trustees from around the country were called upon during the Rena response to work in the wildlife response team, volunteer engagement team and operations. All of them have interesting stories which we will be able to hear and discuss at our oil response session at the 2012 conference in Northland.

2012 conference topic!



To see more about the partnership go to www.quinovic.co.nz and select 'Infuture'

Quinovic Property Management/ Dunes Trust student study award

Quinovic Property Management have partnered with the Dunes Trust to fund a post graduate study award for 2012. We hope to announce the award recipient before Christmas.

Quinovic is looking to support the Trust operations and projects in the longer term. Their core values include building relationships with owners, tenants and trade services to create sustainable tenancies over the long term. We look forward to developing this longer term relationship with Quinovic to help support coastal communities and restoration work throughout the country.



2012 conference topic!

Coastal dunes ecosystems database scoping project

The Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information Systems (TFBIS) project (administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC)) has accepted a Dunes Trust application to investigate the user-needs and parameters for building a coastal dune ecosystems database. This could allow coast care groups to store and manage their own data, provide monitoring tools, as well as link in with council, DOC and other agencies databases etc.

Over the next six months, the Trust will be asking people (like coastcare groups and agency staff) what type of system would be useful and how you would use it. We will have an online survey on our website, a series of interviews and a workshop at the 2012 conference. We welcome as much input into this project as possible so please check the website, come to the conference, and/or contact us on info@dunestrust.org.nz.



2012 conference topic!

What do you want to see on our website?

Why do you go to our website and what are you looking for? Thanks to Pub Charity, the Dunes Trust website is getting a makeover. We plan to have regular updates on coastal topics, host pages for coastcare groups, create an email newsletter and provide articles and videos about the 'how-to's' of dune restoration.

We want to make the site is as useful and interesting as possible for our supporters and partners – and we need your help. Go to www.dunestrust.org.nz have a look and email us from the site with your ideas.

