

# Backdune Restoration

Partners Newsletter Year Two No. 1, 2012



The variation between backdune environments in New Zealand is immense. As the Dunes Trust CEF Team are finding out, each site has its own unique qualities and challenges. Here at Petone Beach, Wellington, where the natural dune system is constricted by development, roadside plantings of backdune species are providing seed sources for semi stable dunes within metres of the seaward side of the sea wall. Photo: M. Bergin



Ministry for the Environment  
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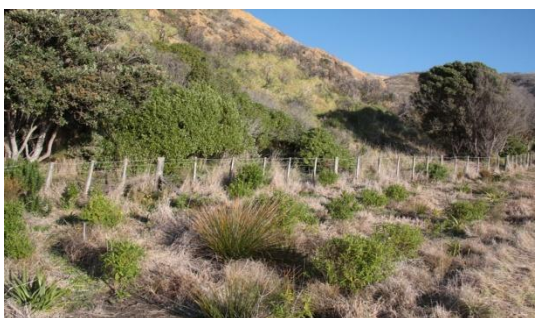
## Year two plotting & planting

We are now into the second year of the backdunes project and have been plotting our work program for the next 12 months.

Much of this year will be spent establishing the remaining demonstration and monitoring sites, holding field based workshops and starting to record and write-up results.

This past two months has involved lots of backdune planting thanks to the generous support of Councils around the country and hundreds of local volunteers with spades!

At Onehunga Bay, Whitireia Park, Wellington, the kids took over the clipboards and recorded seedling measurements. These will be re-measured in 12 months to indicate growth rates and survival by species and site.



Successfully established backdune plantings including koromiko, coastal flax, toetoe, karamu, kohuhu, and ngaio at Whitireia Park established by community groups with support from local councils Greater Wellington and Porirua City (above). Photo: D. Bergin



Key requirements for the Whitireia site include control of exotic grass cover, use of high quality nursery stock and providing rabbit protection for newly planted seedlings (left). Photo: Community Action Wellington

Ben Smith (left), age eight, of the Kiwi Conservation Club had these words to say about planting at Onehunga Bay....

"I planted two plants and did some measuring and then did all of the recording on the clipboard."

"We had to plant because not many plants were there on the sand dunes. There used to be lots and lots of bush but people decided to chop it down."

"The new plants will stop the sand blowing away. And after all that hard work of more than two hours we had biscuits and Milo for the end! I learned to keep going even when there seemed to be so many plants to do." Photo: Greater Wellington



The Dunes Trust Technical Handbook will soon have a new insert (above) and another two to follow towards the end of this years work.

Those of you with Handbooks, will be sent the new articles when they are printed. If there is demand, the Dunes Trust will approach sponsors to reprint the entire manual later this year. Contact [info@dunestrust.org.nz](mailto:info@dunestrust.org.nz) if you would like to order copies.

### Are your Coastcare groups part of our new-look website?

Until the end of 2012, Coastcare groups can join the Trust for free and receive a webpage profile, a Handbook and subscribe to our email newsletter.

Encourage your groups to fill out the form at [www.dunestrust.org.nz](http://www.dunestrust.org.nz) or contact [info@dunestrust.org](mailto:info@dunestrust.org) to talk about bulk uploading regional Coastcare profiles.

## Western Waikato demonstration areas

Several sites form the fourth demonstration area along the western Waikato region which runs from Karioitahi in the north to Mokau in the south (see map).

Sites include the Marokopa, Aotea and Ruapuke beaches and represented different coastal settings and degrees of exposure. To date six working bees each involving up to 30 locals have been undertaken.

Unlike most beaches along the east coast of the upper North Island, west coast beaches are highly dynamic where persistent and often strong onshore westerly winds and large volumes of sand have a significant effect on the dune morphology and coastal ecology.

Work at Ruapuke includes planting of a wide range of backdune native shrubs and monocot species immediately landward of the marram grass dominated foredune (right)

Photos: Environment Waikato



## July-August sites visits in brief...

### New Plymouth

Assessment of backdune planting as part of the Rewa Rewa Living Legends project.

### Bay of Plenty

Working bees to establish several hundred backdune species along Maketu Spit.

### Auckland

Evaluation of backdune restoration and management options at several sites on east and west coasts of North Auckland

### Coromandel

Review of Year 1 results at Cooks, Whangamata and Matarangi demonstration areas and additional review inspections at Pauanui, Tairua, Kuaotunu and Whiritoa. Involvement in working bees at Whangamata, Matarangi and Whangapoua extending existing demonstration project work

### Northland

Measurement of three transects across the Uretiti backdune site

## Send us your news stories...

The Dunes Trust is building a media library on our new website to showcase what is happening around the country.

Send links or scanned articles to [info@dunestrust.org.nz](mailto:info@dunestrust.org.nz)

The Marokopa spit, south of Kawhia Harbour, has been progressively stabilized with spinifex and pingao over the past 10 years as part of a partnership between Environment Waikato, local iwi and residents. With the spit stabilized, backdune planting is now the focus and locals have been planting trees and shrubs on semi-stable sand dunes near the river entrance along the spit. This site will serve as an excellent demonstration area for similar sites along the western Waikato region. Results from ongoing monitoring of this early work will guide long term restoration of the spit.



Waitomo News featured an article about the achievements of volunteers at the July working bee at Marokopa (right).

## Dunes Trust Backdune Project Contacts

**For information about reporting, newsletters, invoicing and partner involvement please contact:**

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The Dunes Trust thanks the following partner organisations for their funding and ongoing involvement in the Backdune Project. We also appreciate the fantastic efforts of the community groups working on their local projects. We welcome other partners so please contact us.

