

# Backdune Restoration

Partners Newsletter 3, November-December 2011



Waikirikiri Lagoon, Komene Road, Okato. 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.



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mo Te Taiao*

**Community Environment Fund**

## New partners and monitoring sites in Taranaki

The Dunes Trust backdune project is in its sixth month now and have just partnered with New Plymouth District Council, Taranaki Regional Council and Living Legends to review backdune sites and set up community monitoring projects along the Taranaki coastline.

Several backdune sites have been inspected in the region with preliminary reviews of previous and current restoration activities at each site completed. The sites in the Taranaki region were inspected and evaluated in mid-November 2011 with the help of new project partners Tina Christmas and Conrad Pattison of the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) and Jake Goonan of the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC). Sites included beaches within New Plymouth city, the backdunes adjacent to the Waiwhakaiho River north of New Plymouth, and several sites to the south between New Plymouth and Opunake.

## Dunes Trust and Living Legends Team up at New Plymouth and in Whangarei

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 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*



The Dunes Trust has 'teamed up' with the Living Legends project to set up monitoring sites in Taranaki and Northland.



*Living Legends planting working bee on backdunes in the Northland Region.  
Photo: G Hosking*

## 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.

### Sites visited for review and monitoring

In the past two months sites visited to review backdune condition and/or set-up community monitoring projects include:

#### Northland

Waipu Cove  
Taipa

#### Taranaki/New Plymouth

Waikirikiri duneland and lagoon, Okato  
Te Rewa Rewa  
Sandy Bay  
Rocky Point, Paora Road  
Stent Road coastal herbfield  
Weld Road coastal wetland  
East Beach  
Fitzroy Beach

#### Waikato

Cooks Beach  
Whangamata  
Waikawau  
Opoutere  
Port Jackson  
Aotea



### Contacts

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### Happy holidays everyone!

The Dunes Trust Backdunes Project Team and Trustees would like to thank all of those we've worked with over the past six months of this project. We wish you all a great holiday break and look forward to getting around other parts of the country next year!

Remember to check our website [www.dunestrust.org.nz](http://www.dunestrust.org.nz) for updates on this, our other projects and our national conference in Northland, February 2012.

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.



Nga Tauru, Waitotara  
Taranaki Regional Council  
New Plymouth District Council