

Comments from the Chair...

As you will be well aware the recent sad news from Samoa has yet again highlighted the need to restore our dune systems as a defence against these events. As we graphically learnt from the Boxing Day tsunami the presence of even the smallest amount of vegetation on the dunes goes a long way towards helping absorb wave energy. Dune restoration is therefore most essential, especially when we are faced with the projected sea level rises that will occur in the not so distant future.

Climate change and sea level rise has been the theme of a major Dune Restoration Trust project over the past 18 months. With substantial help from the Sustainable Management Fund, the Dune restoration Trust has run a series of workshops entitled 'Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to Climate Change'. To date these one day workshops have been held at Baylys Beach (Northland), Port Waikato, Waitakere City, Piha Beach, Wellington City, Otaki, Nelson and New Plymouth. Further workshops will be run in Christchurch in March and in Timaru before our annual conference. We are aiming to hold another 4 in 2010 - 2011. All these workshops have been very well attended and we are slowly but surely getting the message about dune restoration out around the country. If one is happening near you, I urge you to take the opportunity to support the trust and learn a lot about the latest thinking on Dune restoration.

As part of the Empowering Coastal Communities Project, work is being done to produce a handbook on Dune Restoration. This will be a major publication and we hope to have it completed late next year.

The handbook will be a very useful tool for both professionals and those involved in Dune Care groups.

We have not neglected the commitment that the Trust has to research. A start has been made on a major project looking at the impact of rural land use on dunes. Currently a scoping study is being done for the Dunes Trust with funding assistance from Sustainable Farming Fund. Three reports of past research projects are now on our web site in PDF format. We are now looking to establish a password protected area on the web site so that in future only members who contribute to the research fund will get access to future research reports.

Our annual conference is to be held in Timaru next year - March 3rd-5th. Last year's conference at Piha was a great success and this one in Timaru looks to be even better with speakers covering a range of topics including Insects on the Dunes and Shingle Beaches.

I would urge you to continue supporting the Dune Restoration Trust. Without your membership and contribution to our research fund we will not be able to continue providing the service we do and the enthusiasm for dune restoration will fade. The Dunes Trust has come a long way in the three years since being formalised as a trust but we have a lot more that we want to do in the future and your support is vital. Have a safe and fun filled Christmas and New Years break, and I hope to see you at conference in March!!

Mark Dean, Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTCHURCH

FREE WORKSHOP

28 February 2010

All Welcome

Empowering Coastal Communities to
adapt to Climate Change

FREE SEMINAR

1 March 2010

Open to Councillors and Council Staff
Empowering Coastal Communities to
adapt to Climate Change

TIMARU

FREE WORKSHOP

2 March 2010

All Welcome

Empowering Coastal Communities to
adapt to Climate Change

2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

3rd - 4th March 2010

All Welcome

True Grit - East Coast
South Island Beaches

2010 AWARDS

The 2010 award nominations
are now open.

See inside for further details.

Trust Projects

Enthusiastic Support for Climate Change Workshops

The Dunes Trust series of workshops running throughout the country are getting enthusiastic support and fantastic feedback. The Dunes Trust has now run eight workshops as part of a project entitled Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to Climate Change funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund and the Trust with support from local councils and community members.

Workshops have been held from Northland to Nelson with more planned for the South Island early in 2010. Four trustees present a two hour powerpoint show to the wide range of attendees covering coastal dune form and function, expected impacts of climate change on our coasts, the role of natives in restoring beaches and how local communities can make a difference. Feedback has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic!

Other parts of this project including the development of a Coast Care database on the website and production of a Technical Handbook on the Restoration and Management of our Coastal Dunes are well underway. Watch this space for more updates on progress!

For further information contact:
David Bergin, Project Manager
davidbergin.eri@gmail.com



Climate Change Workshop,
Tahunanui Beach, Nelson

See adverts for the next workshops in this newsletter. Come along and take part!



Climate Change Fieldtrip,
Oakura Beach, Taranaki

Adapting Productive Coastal Landuse to Climate Change

Progress on the Dunes Trust scoping study funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Sustainable Farming Fund and the Dunes Trust has so far involved interviews and site visits to farmers of coastal properties near Dargaville and Whangarei in Northland, and Cable Bay in Nelson and Collingwood in the Golden Bay. These are providing valuable insights into issues including barriers and attitudes to sustainable land

management along the coast for both hill country sheep and cattle farmers and those involved in dairying along the coast and estuaries. This includes better integration of production and natural coastal values in the face of the effects of climate change including sea-level rise.

The next phase is meeting with managers of coastal exotic production forests. The study, to be completed in mid 2010, will provide

a scoping report summarising key existing and potential climate change issues for farming and production forestry land uses adjacent to coastal dunelands and estuarine wetlands. The study will also highlight the various opportunities to better integrate and sustain productive land uses within our coastal ecosystems.

For further information contact:
Jim Dahm, Project Manager
jdahm@xtra.co.nz

2010 DRTNZ AWARDS

The 2010 award nominations are now open. The categories are:

Best Coastal Dune Restoration Project Award

Sponsored by Naturally Native New Zealand Plant Nursery Limited

Best Community Group Award

Sponsored by Taupo Native Plant Nursery

For further information and to lodge your nominations, please contact:

Mark Dean: Em. mark@naturalenvironments.co.nz Tel. 07 543 1494 or 021 949 339



Christchurch Upcoming Events

The coastline of Christchurch is a fantastic place to view many aspects of dune restoration in practice.

Story of the Christchurch dunes... In the 19th Century, European settlers destroyed many of the native coastal plants on the dunes through burning and grazing. As a result the dunes all but disappeared causing significant sand blow inland and exposing the Christchurch shoreline to the full elements of the Pacific Ocean. To try and stabilise the dunes, large areas were planted with pine trees and marram grass. This stabilisation did work to a certain extent. However, the biodiversity of the Christchurch dunes was significantly reduced and the marram dominated dunes rapidly grew high and unstable and have been very susceptible to blow-outs ever since requiring many costly hours of sand clearing and fencing over the decades.

Fieldtrip topics...

On the workshop fieldtrip you will see recent restoration work undertaken by Christchurch City Council Coast Care and the community which has included dune re-shaping of the worst effected areas coupled with replanting of native

sand-binding plants such as pingao, spinifex, cottonwood, milkweed and sand coprosma. These works have helped stabilise the narrow Christchurch dunes and have created additional habitat for coastal fauna including the endangered katipo spider.

Another important aspect of the dune stabilisation and restoration works has been to protect the low-lying and intensely populated coastal land behind the dunes from waves and seawater inundation during coastal storms. This protection will only become more valuable as coastal communities begin the process of adapting to the effects of climate change.

Come to the workshop to learn more and share your experiences, we look forward to meeting you.

Justin Cope
ECAN & Dunes Trust Trustee



1990 - Unstable marram grass dominated dune



1992 - Dune recontoured



1996



2003

Effingham Street Entrance to
North Beach, New Brighton from
1990 through to 2003
Photos: Environment Canterbury

The Dunes Trust is running two Christchurch workshops, one for Councillors and Council staff and the other for community groups and individuals. Both workshops are free of charge but please contact us so we can arrange catering and administration.

For further information
phone 04 889 2855 or email info@dunestrust.org.nz
We look forward to seeing you there!

Free Seminar for Councillors & Council Staff

Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to
Climate Change

Free seminar, all welcome. Come and hear about natural dune form and function along your coastline, why and how to look after it.

1 March 2010
9am to 11am
Christchurch City Council Chambers
Ground Floor, 163 Tuam Street
RSVP and book it in your diary now!

Free Workshop - All Welcome

Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to
Climate Change

Free workshop and fieldtrip, all welcome. Come and hear about natural dune form and function along your coastline, why and how to look after it.

28 February 2010
1pm to 5pm
New Brighton Club
202 Marine Parade, New Brighton
RSVP and book it in your diary now!

Keeping our Dunes ALIVE

Timaru Upcoming Events

National Dunes Trust Conference 2010

True Grit - East Coast South Island Beaches
March 3rd-4th, 2010 Caroline Bay, Timaru

Programme

The beaches of the east coast South Island are predominantly shingle/gravel beaches. This years 'true grit' conference will look at the makeup of these very specific beach types as well as the management challenges and opportunities that they present.

Our programme includes a national overview of shingle beaches around New Zealand, the coastal processes at work in South Canterbury that have shaped the local scene here and a look at the recent redevelopment work undertaken at Caroline Bay - right outside the conference venue.

We will also focus on the plants, insects and animals (both good and bad) that call these beaches home.

Add to that an opportunity to hear about current research work and the ever popular Regional Roundups that keep us all in touch with coastal happenings around New Zealand and you have what is a programme with something for everyone.

Field trip

There is an optional field trip on Friday 5 March will look at local gravel beach ecosystems on South Beach and Otipua Beaches at Timaru to view our beach habitats and discuss recent plantings, recreational developments and other issues here – do we really have the Southern most Spinifex plantings in New Zealand? We will also visit and learn something of the distinctive gravel beaches of the Hook/Wainono area near Waimate.

Venue and Accommodation

The conference is being held at the Caroline Bay Tearooms which is within five minutes walking distance of the Timaru CBD, accommodation and restaurants.

Weather

The weather in Timaru in March is usually very good so we look forward to seeing you all here to show you what is happening in South Canterbury.

To register for the 2010 conference visit

www.dunestrust.org.nz or contact
Gary Foster, Timaru District Council
027 431 0637 or 03 687 7274
garyf@timdc.govt.nz

Caroline Bay, Timaru!



The fine sand beach at Caroline Bay is a fascinating case of human induced coastal change. Having formed as a direct result of the construction of the Timaru Harbour Breakwater in the 1880's it is the only oasis of sandy beach in the continuous 240km stretch of gravel coastline of the Canterbury Bight between the Waitaki River and Banks Peninsula. The Bay continues to build seawards at over four metres per year creating its own unique management issues.



South Beach, Timaru
Photo: Gary Foster

Free Workshop All Welcome

Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to
Climate Change

Free workshop, all welcome. Come and hear about natural dune form and function along your coastline, why and how to look after it.

2 March 2010
7pm - 9:30pm
Caroline Bay Tearooms Willow Walk
Caroline Bay, Timaru
RSVP and book it in your diary now!

Dunes Trust Key Contacts

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