

## **Developing of a literature database to store and maintain coastal dune ecosystem information relevant to New Zealand**

**Over the last 2 years the Dunes Trust has been developing an on-line coastal dune ecosystem literature database with a focus on New Zealand references. The aim is to increase access to reliable information on coastal dune ecosystems to support restoration management and implementation by management agencies, research institutes and community groups. The project is funded by the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS) Programme administered by the Department of Conservation with support from members and research partners of the Dunes Trust.**

### **LAUNCH OF COASTAL REFERENCE DATABASE SOON!**

**The Dunes Trust coastal dune ecosystem literature database will be 'live' on the Dunes Trust website by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.**

**Check it out on [www.dunestrust.org.nz](http://www.dunestrust.org.nz)**

### **Background**

Coastal dune ecosystems are amongst the most modified and degraded of all the major ecosystems in New Zealand (New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010). Currently there is no specific coastal dune ecosystem literature database or comprehensive electronic bibliography available in New Zealand. Data and information about our coastal dune-land ecosystems is held across a wide range of organisations and communities including CRI's, councils, DOC, libraries, industry groups and Coast Care groups.

### **Rationale**

Of the council staff (regional, district and territorial authority) who responded to an earlier scoping report survey undertaken by the Dunes Trust, over 90% indicated that having information about coastal dune ecosystems together in one searchable database/information system would be very useful. It is anticipated that once the range of existing information containing data related to coastal dune-land ecosystems is brought together, it will generate new information about the changing nature of these ecosystems as well as highlight information cross-over and gaps to improve the focus of future study and data collection.

This comprehensive coastal literature database will provide better connectivity between the community of interest associated with coastal dune ecosystems locally, nationally and internationally. In addition it will provide for better linkages and a level of integration between the biological, physical and social aspects of coastal dune ecosystem management and restoration.

### **Nearing completion**

The project has involved collating up to 3000 references relevant to restoration and management of coastal dunes in New Zealand. Many are available as electronic form either as pdfs or via links to other websites. Where necessary hard copies of older or unpublished references have been scanned where there are no publisher restrictions. The database developer Robin Sallis (Cerulean Design, Invercargill) has been engaged to build and design the technical platform and deliver the on-line interactive system for the Dunes Trust website.

The development of a prototype Coastal Reference Database was developed for the Dunes Trust National Conference held in Whitianga in March early this year with a sample of 60 references and their associated online document links and PDF files loaded for testing. This trial run allowed the range of representatives from

councils, Department of Conservation, NGO's and the Coast Care community members during the conference to provide feedback. Response was very positive with numerous suggestions and leads regarding possible improvements to the format of the database and material included, all of which we have considered and implemented where practical.

The project is on target for completion by end of June when it will go 'live' on the Dunes Trust website where a fully interactive searchable database will be up and running, so check it out on [www.dunestrust.org.nz](http://www.dunestrust.org.nz).

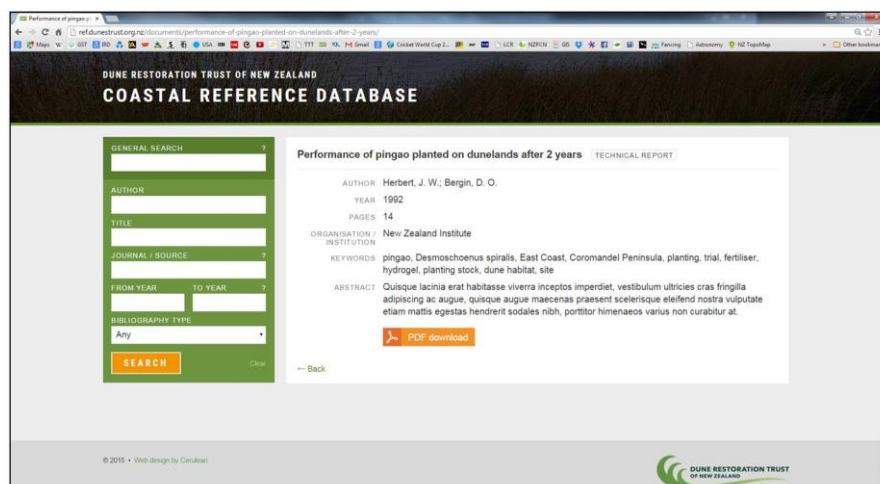
### What you can do – a work in progress!

While substantial work has been undertaken in collation of relevant references there will inevitably many references not yet entered into this database. Of the 3000 references collated up to half will have access to the full text or a preview of the abstract so there may be scope to add these in the future as further information become available or where copyright conditions or publisher access conditions change. There will also be inevitable errors in the database that will require addressing plus the need to constantly update the database as new material is published.

With the need to provide an up-to-date and improving interactive, the technical platform and software used to develop and run the database has been designed to allow quick and easy updating and editing by the Dunes Trust database administrator.

We need you to provide us ongoing feedback on the database as you use it. Provision is being made to enable you to provide new references, corrections to any loaded material, further information on sourcing of references, and any other comments and suggestions to improve and ensure this coastal reference database is relevant and useful for all end users and those involved in restoration and management of New Zealand's coastal dunes. The database will remain an ongoing work in progress!

Please contact the Dunes Trust Coordinator ([info@dunestrust.org.nz](mailto:info@dunestrust.org.nz)).



Test page for the Dunes Trust Coastal Reference Database that will be available mid-2015 for searching for literature relevant to restoration and management of coastal dunes.