

February 2020

To the Trustees  
Coastal Restoration Trust of New Zealand

Dear Trustees,

Unfortunately Cooks Beachcare Group is not able to attend this conference.. However having been the happy recipients of the 2019 award for a coastal restoration project we felt we wanted to share out thoughts and experiences arising from the award.

Firstly it was a huge confirmation for our group that our ongoing efforts and commitment were capable of such recognition. As many of our member as can, meet each Thursday and we gradually move down our restoration area removing unwanted plants. and preparing sites for our planting programme. Sometimes it seems we are making slow progress but as we look back on a year's work the changes we have achieved are quite apparent. The award gave a huge boost to our commitment and efforts.

Secondly the award gave us increased credibility with out two local authorities , Waikato Regional Council and Thames Coromandel District Council. We have always enjoyed good relationships with these authorities but the award gave them confirmation that their dune care programmes are producing the right results. Not quite influenced by our recognition but related to it has been the appointment by TCDC of a Coastal Management Coordinator whose role includes working with such groups as ours. This role has greatly enhanced our ability to perform and has been a hugely positive step for the Council. Tania Patrick who holds the position is at the conference and I hope you will take the opportunity to talk to her.

Our other close relationship is with Jo at Coastland Plants Nursery. She is hugely supportive of our work for which we are so grateful. Our activities have now expanded to our collecting seeds for her nursery from our local sources.

Our commendation to those groups who have been nominated for this year's award and our congratulations to the folk who take the award for 2020. May you enjoy the buzz the award will bring and ride the wave of its recognition well

Our best wishes for a successful conference

Alan Henry for Cooks Beachcare Group