**Speakers Notes : Coastal Restoration Conference**

**Regional Roundup.: Whaingaroa Coastcare**

**1.Introduction**

Ko Karioi te maunga, Ko Whaingaroa te moana, Ko Tainui te waka, Ko Tainui te iwi, Ko Tainui Awhiro ngunguru I te po I te ao. Ko Angeline Greensill ahau.

Kia Ora everyone. I am here on behalf of Tainui , tangata whenua of the lands north and south of Whaingaroa /Raglan Harbour, to share our experiences with erosion, the importance of the coastal margins, the threats, and possible solutions for restoration. Whaingaroa is not only a haven for surfers, fishers, nature lovers, and a diverse environmentally aware community but also a place of immense historical cultural, and ecological value to Tainui and others who care for the coastal environment.

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2. **Slide**

**Title:** A Rich Tapestry of Life

*Speaker Notes*

Every day when I am at home I get to observe life in a coastal space. Whaingaroa moana provides an interesting seasonal tapestry of life. Native plants like Spinifex and pingao stabilize dunes, while Pohutukawa, Ngaio, harakeke, karamu and pohuehue provide food and shelter for manu, bees, and lizards. From time to time the shores teem with birdlife, from the watchful Kotare to the Karoro and Torea. Looking after their home is essential for the health of our entire ecosystem upon which life depends.

3. **Threats : Humans**

Unfortunately, whanau and the activities they undertake on Kakariki beach present the biggest threats to the health of our dunes and coastal environment. One day 17 horse floats turned up to exercise their horses and take selfies. Normally it's about 3. While we grew up with horses, we have denied ourselves the privilege of riding on a beach. Our tupuna used to gather and preserve shark once a year up until the 1950’s. At the time they had a draft horse and a sled to carry the annual catch back to the marae for preservation.

**4. Access across Dunes**

Once beachgoers arrive, they who want to access the beach using the shortest possible route. Before WDC provided accessways people would access the beach over the dunes. Even with accessways people cut the fences and climb over on to the dunes to take photos, access the beach or just sit down and have a picnic in the dunes, ignoring signage about avoiding damage to dune plants.

5. **Slide**

**Title:** **Threats to Whaingaroa – Playthings**

*Speaker Notes* People and their playthings e.g.,plastic from fishing lines, picnic rubbish, motorbikes, four-wheel drives, and wedding graffiti , council pipelines, pests like rabbits who browse on pingao ad pest plants, all take a toll on our coastal environment. Horse hooves and vehicle tracks can tear up dune vegetation, negatively impact kaimoana beds, and put people at risk when the horse bolts and speeds up the beach. Poorly placed access tracks disrupt natural sand movement and can force the sand into the carpark instead of along the beach. The key is to check the direction of sand flow and the prevailing wind direction before making decisions.

**6. Cultural Ecological Damage**

Horses destroy eel grass and kaimoana beds that have been seeded .. Today with the popularity of the beach with the public it is no longer suitable for masses of horses to take up the space both on the beach and in the ocean over tuangi or pipi beds. Failing to pick up the horse dung is also an issue for local pensioners.

**7. Pipeline**

Stormwater runoff from Riria Kereopa Memorial Drive, housing developments and vehicles can introduce pollutants, smother beach ecosystems and scour out land, accelerating erosion. Invasive weeds crowd out native plants, disrupt the natural balance.

**8. Title:** **Restoring the Balance: Working with nature**

*Speaker Notes*

The good news is there are solutions! Manuka Fascines, woven bundles of branches, trap windblown sand, accelerating dune growth. Fencing areas gives the plants and dunes a chance to grow. Planting native species like Spinifex and Pingao strengthens dunes and provides vital habitat. Back-dune planting with Pohutukawa, Ngaio, Harakeke, Flax, wiwi and Carex creates a rich tapestry of vegetation that provides further ecological benefits. This work demands commitment and passion.

**9. Title:** **Protecting Whaingaroa Together through Education**

Clear signage educates visitors on sensitive areas, while ongoing weed control prevents invasive plants from taking over. Community involvement is key to successful restoration e.g.,

1. Volunteers
2. Restoration initiatives, weeding and planting, removing tyres and other large rubbish from the CMA.
3. © Spreading awareness through signage and education.

10. **Restoring Whaingaroa’s coastline is a collective effort.**

Community groups especially schools, play a vital role in planting, weed control, and education. This group visited from Mt Roskill and helped us plant about 1800 plants in a few hours.

By volunteering time, supporting restoration initiatives, and spreading awareness, we can assist Raglan's coastline to recover after erosion events. Together, we can ensure this special place thrives for generations to come.

**11. Children (nga kaihapai ) helping to plant dunes for the first time**.

12. Coastcare is also involved in supporting other restoration work in and around the river, moana and maunga.

13 Before I close, I just want to share with you the first experience of push ups at Kakariki, the beach I almost live on. As you can see the bach is about 3m from the edge. Council, Coastcare, and students planted up this manmade dune which was then fenced.

**14. Push ups in front of bach.**

The amount of growth on the spinifex p[lants and the sand that has been trapped by having a windbreak is a bonus, providing extra protection and more dunes for the spinifex to colonise. On the other side of the accessway there is only a string fence . The slope of the sand being blown in is trapped as expected and a dune is forming there as well.

**15 Title: Final Thoughts.**

When we see the large rocks being uncovered, we know our erosion cycle is starting again.

*Speaker Notes*

*Whaingaroa’s* is a taonga to tangata whenua and to the local community members who treasure it and expect it to be cherished and protected by current and future generations. At the moment we are holding the line. Always watching for the next sign that erosion is about to happen again. Hopefully the next generation will continue the work needed to maintain the mahi that has been done by others over the past 80 or so years when erosion first became noticeable in this area due to the clearance of fore and back dune vegetation.

As well as Kakariki, planting has also been done around the Papahua spit and plans are in place to continue push ups if the experiment at the bach is successful. Only time will tell.

Thank you.