

CoastCare News

Issue 2—May 2007

Planting the seeds of success



Workshop participants were shown how to collect and sort seeds.

Two successful seed collection and planting workshops were run in December 2006. Held in Mangawhai and Waipapakauri, the workshops focussed on the dune plants Spinifex and Pingao.

Participants were shown how to collect and sort seeds, and grow and plant seedlings back into a dune environment.

The workshops were run by scientist and coastal dune planting expert, Dr David Bergin, and hosted by Northland Regional Council.

Thanks to the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society and the Waipapakauri Coastal Care Group for showcasing their restoration work – a great time was had by all!

Further workshops are planned in the future. If you are interested, please contact the CoastCare Co-ordinator to register your interest on 0800 002 004 or email clairen@nrc.govt.nz.

Beach clean-up bash

Northland schools and the NRC joined forces in a 'Beach Clean-Up Bash' for Seaweeek 2007 held 4–11 March.

Seaweeek raises awareness and appreciation of the coast and ocean and encourages people to get involved with projects that help protect and enhance the local marine environment.

The Regional Council gave participating schools a resource pack, gloves, rubbish bags and sunscreen. The Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei District Councils provided participating schools with free rubbish disposal.

Forty two schools and just under 3000 Northland students participated in beach clean-ups and waste audits.



Riverview School from Kerikeri was one of 42 schools who participated in the Seaweeek Beach Clean-ups held across the region

As an early Seaweeek celebration, the NRC also joined forces with the Department of Conservation for Tokerau Beach's "Sea Day" in February. It was a great day supported by locals and visitors alike!

Caring for Northland
and its environment

NORTHLAND
REGIONAL
COUNCIL 

PROFILE:

Waipapakauri Coastal Care Group

Worried by the damage caused to their sand dunes by pedestrians, vehicles and wild horses, concerned residents formed the Waipapakauri Coastal Care Group. The group is working to protect and restore the Waipapakauri dune system and has achieved great success so far!

Members have fenced off the dunes and created one pathway for pedestrian access from the car park to the beach. The group undertook works using locally donated materials and its own labour. The access way over the dunes has become a huge hit with tourists who use it as a vantage point to see right down to Ahipara.

The group has also been working to stabilise the sand dune blow out by erecting sand fences to capture the sand. Members have also been successful in securing funding enabling them to purchase sand dune-binding plants which were then planted by the group and community members and children from local schools. The group also has the support of the Bushlands Trust, which in the future may be able to grow sand dune plants from locally sourced seeds.



Watch those pests!



Remember to manage pests — and visitors!

Have a pest management strategy as rabbits and hares love young plants and will readily eat them up over the winter months when other food sources are scarce. Remember, people can cause problems too. If possible, erect a sign to inform visitors to respect plantings.

Pingao



PLANT FACTS:

Pingao is a native sand-binding plant and along with Spinifex, once was a common sight on New Zealand's sand dunes. Today it is less common. It has disappeared from many areas and is vulnerable elsewhere.

Pingao is a sand-binder and dune-builder. Wind-blown sand is trapped amongst its leaves and it continues to sprout new shoots as the sand shifts and covers it. It has tufts of coarse grass-like leaves, which are a rich green-bronze colour and make long, thick rope-like stems which trail across the dunes. Its seed heads have rigid dark spikes which grow above the leaves and have hundreds of dark brown seeds.

Dried Pingao is prized for its golden colour and is much sought after by Maori weavers.

Contact Claire Nyberg on 0800 002 004 if you are interested in collecting and growing pingao from seed.

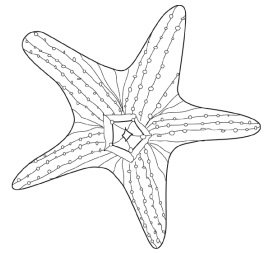
Environment Fund now open

The Northland Regional Council Environment Fund opened on 1 May for the 2007 funding round. This year there is \$500,000 available including \$25,000 available specifically for CoastCare projects. The Environment Fund is open to individuals and voluntary groups for eligible projects on private land. The Environment Fund can contribute up to 50% of the total project cost. The applicant must be able to provide the remainder of the cost with time, cash costs, other funding or in-kind contributions such as voluntary labour and donated materials. Most grants are between \$500 and \$5000. No more than \$30,000 of the Environment Fund can be allocated to one project in any one year.

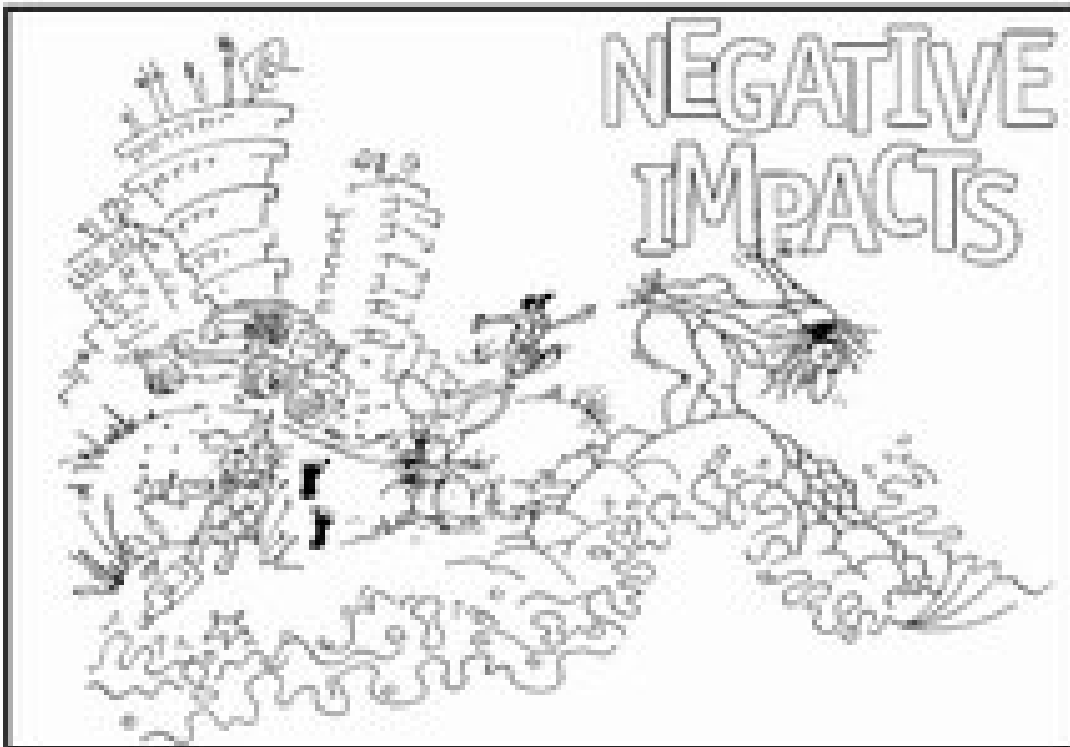
How do I apply to the Environment Fund?

It's easy! More information about the Environment Fund and application forms are available from our website www.nrc.govt.nz, from our offices or by calling 0800 002 004.

Applications close 5.00 pm - Friday 20 July 2007



CoastCare Kids



Coastcare Kids

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Dune conference



Northland was represented at the Dunes Trust Conference held in Tauranga in February.

More than 150 people attended the successful four-day conference which explored the value of sand dunes in today's changing climate.

Members of the coastal dune preservation group, Te Taha Moana Whako O Roopu from the Far North, the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society and Northland's Sir Peter Blake Award recipient, Barbara Hall from Kaitia Intermediate, attended the conference.

All Northland participants got the opportunity to showcase their projects and the group from the Far North presented the hosts with some lovely weaving that they had made

Vehicles on beaches

Vehicles on beaches are a growing problem on Northland's beaches.

During January and February the NRC worked with the Department of Conservation, Far North District Council and the NZ Police holding a series of vehicles on beaches information days.

Held at Bream Bay, Ahipara, Waipapakauri and Baylys Beach we worked to educate beach users of their responsibilities while driving on the coast. Most people were driving responsibly on the day (although a few had to be evicted from conservation areas where vehicles are prohibited).

Information on vehicles on beaches can be found on the NRC website www.nrc.govt.nz or from any of our offices.



PROFILE:

Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust

When the Department of Conservation released its Bream Bay Strategic Plan in April 2006 there was a lot of public interest. The strategy calls for volunteers from the community to help DOC manage its reserve land at Bream Bay, so concerned residents joined together and restarted the Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust. They are working to enhance the Bream Bay area from Marsden Point to Waipu Cove.

Recently Trust members have been working with DOC to improve the Tip Road entrance onto Bream Bay beach. Work has included planting pohutukawa trees and fencing of the carpark and vehicle access onto the beach. Members of the Trust have also been very active with the NZ fairy tern breeding programme helping DOC officers to fence off nesting sites, monitor the birds and educate the public.

Further information

If you wish to discuss anything raised in this newsletter, please contact:



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