

## Bay of Plenty Coast Care

Every time we go to the beach we think of sun, sand, surf and fun. Now let's have a closer look at the beach environment – the sea, beach, sand dunes, dune vegetation and reserve areas. All these areas play an important part in the visual appearance, function, natural character and enjoyment of our beaches.

### What is Coast Care?

Coast Care is a community action programme, coordinated by Bay of Plenty Regional Council in partnership with Tauranga City Council; Whakatāne, Western Bay of Plenty, and Ōpōtiki District Councils; and the Department of Conservation.

The four goals of Coast Care are to raise awareness about dunes; to involve local communities in coastal management; to protect and restore biodiversity and to maximise dune resilience to coastal hazards.

Coast Care groups are made up of residents and beach users who care about their coastal environment and want to participate actively in protecting and managing that environment. Local residents, holiday home owners, bach users, beach front property owners, developers and conservationists, etc should be represented on Coast Care groups. We are an inclusive organisation.

Coast Care groups advise Council what work they regard as priority and they give their time to carry out tasks relating to restoring and protecting the dune system.

Coast Care offer advice on reducing erosion through planting and assist the groups with resources including native plants and fertiliser.

Coast Care is involved in developing education resources on Coastal Resource Management, and research to improve the quality and reliability of projects.

### Sand dunes

Beaches and sand dunes are the narrow but precious bands of sand between the land and sea. Sand dunes in their natural state provide amazingly effective protection to the land, its people and their housing

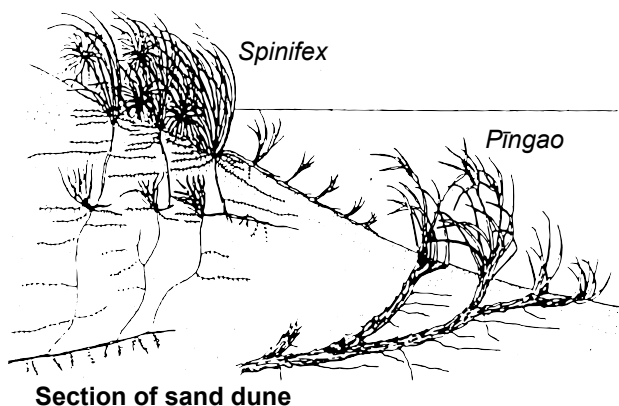


from storms, cyclones, and tsunamis. Dunes covered with native dune plants give us our distinctive New Zealand coastline, screening coastal development from view, allowing a sense of returning to nature at many beaches. Sand dunes are the natural habitats of a range of insects, lizards, and birds, plus the many very specialised plants that help to maintain the dunes in the best protective condition.



## Sand dune plants

Native dune plants can survive severe storms, salt spray and being buried by sand. However they evolved in a land without mammals, and are therefore sensitive to trampling and grazing. Spinifex and pīngao are two of our very effective native sand-trapping plants. They grow on the front of the dunes where their root systems help to bind the sand together. They grow long runners and tall leaves that enable wind blown sand to be trapped in the dunes.



## What can you do to help?

Use formal accessways such as board walks, steps and marked tracks where ever provided. Do not drive vehicles on the dunes.

Encourage your friends and children to respect the dunes and play elsewhere (there is lots of space on the beach itself). In particular do not play on the critically important seaward face of the dunes.

Do not light fires in the dunes.

Do not dump personal household and garden rubbish in these areas – not only does it look unsightly, but it can also be dangerous and harmful to the environment by spreading weeds. Use rubbish bins or take your rubbish home and recycle it.

Keep dogs under control. These plants have fragile runners which do not like being trampled by people, animals, horses, cars, quadbikes or motorbikes. Help to protect these plants by not walking and playing in these areas.

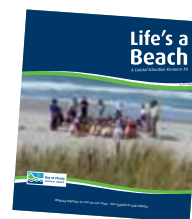


**Other titles in this information series available at [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz) are:**

- No. 1 Bay of Plenty Coast Care**
- No. 2 Formation and Functions of Beaches and Sand Dunes
- No. 3 Dune Plants
- No. 4 Vehicle damage in sand dunes
- No. 5 Sand Ladders – Getting you to the beach
- No. 6 Coast Care Code
- No. 7 Backyard Buffers

Living on a Sandcastle  
(A guide for coastal residents)

Life's a Beach is an education resource aimed at teachers and students living in coastal Bay of Plenty. Contact us for more information on this resource.



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## Find out more

If you want more information on Coast Care groups and programmes contact:

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