



Photo by Jo Roberts – Foxton Beach Jan 2024

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Papangaio Te Wharangi Manawatū Estuary Newsletter

Kia ora / greetings – welcome to the third edition of our community newsletter from the Manawatū Estuary Management Team.

Climate Change & Foxton Beach Township

Have you ever thought about what will happen if the sea breaks through into our Foxton Beach residential areas?

Those of you who visit up and down the beach from time to time will have noticed what happens in a big storm - the sand dunes get eroded - and the sea gets closer to our houses. And it's going to get worse as climate change continues to bring more severe weather. Not to mention the anticipated rising sea levels.

We now know that our sand dunes form the first line of defence. When the foredunes are allowed to form their natural shape, covered by a plentiful growth of our native sand-binding plants, they stand strong against storms and recover quickly.

And what if the Manawatū River decides to head straight out to sea? After all, that's where it did flow many years ago. Again, sand dunes in a healthy state form a great natural barrier.

It's easy to say that the wind is the main culprit, blowing away the sand. But that only happens if the sand is exposed to the wind. Efforts have been made over the years to build up and maintain a good growth of sand-binding plants, with only partial success.

It is humans that are disturbing the plants, increasing the exposed sand, over time leading to erosion and greater risk of the sea or river breaking through. And it's almost entirely humans in vehicles and on motorbikes, quads, and so forth.



The Community Representatives on the Manawatū Estuary Management Team have proposed something like this map and will also be trying to find an alternative place for off road vehicles to use. This is included in the review of the HDC Coastal Reserves Management Plan that is currently underway.

The Horowhenua District Council has amended the Public Places Bylaw to provide a way to reduce the adverse impact of those activities. The Council can now prosecute people who take a vehicle into the sand dunes.

The bylaw requires Council to define designated routes and places where vehicles are allowed. Although this process is still to be worked through in detail, once this is done signs would be erected to make it clear where vehicles are allowed, and where they are not allowed.

Read about the plan here: <https://www.metrust.org.nz/management-plan>

Trapping

With significant support from Horizons Regional Council, volunteers, Predator Free NZ with Simplicity Foundation funding – Wildlife Foxton Trust has begun its pest animal control work. So far 2 trap lines have been set up – Trapping Numbers from February to end of June for the Estuary, backyard and edge of the Cousins East Forest sites are: Possum 7; Rats 19; Mice 43; Stoat 0; Ferret 0; Weasel 0; Hedgehog 1, (yes these are a pest eating our native invertebrates).

Forest & Bird Horowhenua – Monday 21st July @ 1.30pm @ Wildlife Foxton Office, 207 Seabury Avenue, Foxton Beach (Senior Citizens Hall) – monthly meeting with guest speaker Arnim Litteck presenting his findings on our resident Katipo and other invertebrates – along with Phil Sirvid – Invertebrates Group, Te Papa. Wildlife Foxton are currently setting up a new digital connection – email Geoff between 15th – 19th July to see if this has been set up: "Geoff Ritchie" geoffritchie01@gmail.com. He will be able to send a link if digital capacity is available.

Volunteer Opportunities

We have a range of tasks that need a commitment of a couple of hours each week (predator control, social media, newsletter, litter, newsletter delivery) – so come see us! Stop in to Wildlife Foxton Trust: Open Mon 9am – 4pm; Wed 9am - 4pm; Thur 9am - 1pm @ 207 Seabury Avenue, Foxton Beach.

HDC Community Planting Day: Spinifex planting on **Saturday 2nd August @10am**. Sausage sizzle afterwards. Meeting at Pinewood Road, southern end Campground, very short walk to the planting area.

Dune Garden work:

Details on MET website:

www.metrust.org.nz/dune-garden

Sunday morning fortnightly

Weekly Pest Plant removal:

Wednesday mornings (weather dependent)

9am till noon; End of Pinewood Road FB,
– Wattle removal (wear boots)



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ramsarfoxtonbeach@gmail.com

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