

Allan Tiplady

From: Jim Dahm <jdahm@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 August 2016 1:25 p.m.
To: Meg Graeme; Scott Farrell; Allan Tiplady
Cc: 'Macassey-Pickard F&B, Augusta (Gus)'; Moniqua Nelson-Tunley
Subject: RE: back dune plants for Tairua ED

Thanks Meg

Well done re working bee and support – fabulous effort!

Totally agree regarding the bushy young pohutukawa in the photos – Scott, there is no problem at all with crown lifting of these as requested by Warren.

By way of background, the plantings were agreed in the early-mid 90's after a very extensive community consultation process (including public meetings, an open day that Joan G and I ran and various newsletters sent to most folk in Whitianga). The work was linked to disposal of dredged sand from the marina to this site, which sands were shaped to resemble natural dune ridges. There was a lot of controversy at the time with placement of the sands on the beaches and so we came up with the dune option and associated planting. The plantings were undertaken with a very large community effort (I took quite a lot of photographs which will be held by WRC). The agreement at the time was to monitor the success of the plantings and then use the results to restore a native coastal forest sequence through to the wetland behind. However, in 2003 we made the decision to abandon the creation of the native coastal forest sequence after opposition from Warren and adjacent homeowner and stopped planting trees in this area at that time. The more recent plantings by Meg and Forest and Bird are all low species – rushland and ground cover. We have also done our best to be responsive to the views issues raised by having crown-lifting and pruning of the remaining trees. Monitoring continues and has been done since the trees were planted in 1995. There were very detailed measurements conducted for the first 3 years (95-98), repeated in 2003 and the trees will be measured again in 2017. Various photographic monitoring has also been conducted since the trials were established.

There are very few pohutukawa on Coromandel dunes because of the views issue. Virtually all Coastcare/Beachcare programmes in NZ and most councils are no longer able to plant any native trees on dunes because of views issues and what trees remain (or any new plantings by councils) are continually being damaged. A few years ago, Paul Bacon and his reserves group planted over 200 pohutukawa along Buffalo Beach and most were destroyed within 1-2 years. We're not going to leave much of a legacy unless we can get some compromise on this issue – it is important to have some trees on our beaches.

Regards
Jim

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From: Megan Graeme [mailto:meg@ecologist.nz]
Sent: Monday, 1 August 2016 12:14 p.m.
To: Scott Farrell