

Treasuring Oreti Beach

"Oreti Beach is a beautiful area, where memories are made and we are very lucky that it is right on our doorstep. We need to show our support for our big backyard by keeping it clean," Donna said.

Unfortunately, it's not just little bits of rubbish which end up on Oreti Beach.

Council's Environmental Health and Compliance staff work hard to investigate multiple cases of fly-tipping, and burnt-out cars, each year.

It seems to be the type of issue which increases during summer months. Members of the public are encouraged to report any dumping or abandoned and damaged vehicles they find at the beach, and if they see it happening, to note down the registration number of the vehicle doing the dumping.

Usually, Council staff find evidence of who is responsible, and can take action by issuing infringements, prosecuting the perpetrator, or recovering costs from the clean-up.

You can report any concerns you may have about illegal dumping to Council by calling (03) 211 1777.

While you might think you're a considerate driver, especially while on the beach, it's important to be mindful that you're not just driving on sand, but an important eco system.

Michael said juvenile toheroa live immediately below the surface of the soft sand, furthest from the water. "As they grow, they migrate towards the water."

A recent survey estimated that 24 per cent of juvenile toheroa were killed by traffic driving on the beach, Michael said.

"It doesn't take thousands of cars to do the damage. We're not about wanting to stop people using the beach, but we do want people to understand and help protect the resource. We've got the best [populations of toheroa] in the country at the moment!"

Michael said he would like to see more car parks perhaps developed so that people didn't need to drive on to the beach.

That's something which Council has already begun to address, with carparking and signs to educate the public put in at the Dunns Road entrance in 2016. There's also a toilet and picnic table available there!

Remember, too, that with high tides, surge tides, and the changing nature of the coast, sometimes access to the beach in a vehicle may be difficult, as the sand can be soft. Using the car park is a good option, with a nice walk along the path to the beach from there.



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