

Speedy spinifex dig in at Sandy Bay

The Ngatitara Oaonui Sandy Bay Society had plenty of helping hands to dig in over one thousand spinifex plants on the beach foreshore.

Peter Johnston, Sandy Bay Society chairman, said he was really pleased that some Shell Todd staff members and a large group of international Conservation Corp volun-

teers shoveled away with such vigour and enthusiasm.

"The cold, showery weather kept our local Opunake school children from turning up for the June planting, so we were all adults with our noses to the ground," he quipped.

There were plenty of jokes and high spirits amongst the volunteers who followed a careful pattern of placing the spinifex. Not far away the 2009 area of successful spinifex could be seen on the sand dunes.

Samantha Jamieson, a Land Management Officer and sand dune ecologist from the Taranaki Regional Council, was impressed with the progress of stabilizing the land at Sandy Bay.

Many years of voluntary work is now proving to be a worthwhile project, which will be enjoyed by future generations.

