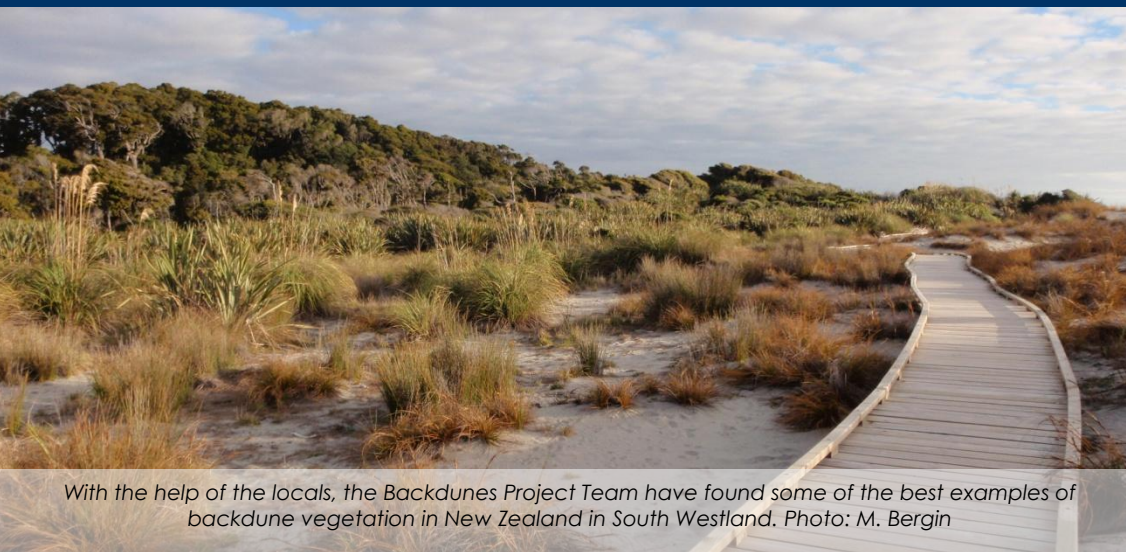


# Backdune Restoration

Partners Newsletter 4, January - April 2012



*With the help of the locals, the Backdunes Project Team have found some of the best examples of backdune vegetation in New Zealand in South Westland. Photo: M. Bergin*



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Mānata Mō Te Taiao*

**Community Environment Fund**

## What information do you use and/or need for your coastal restoration and management work?

The Dunes Trust has been funded by the Department of Conservation Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information Systems (TFBIS) programme to investigate options for developing an online coastal ecosystem database.

The database could include scientific papers, best practice guidelines, student research, monitoring tools, species lists, policy documents, restoration templates etc.

One of our main objectives is to find out what information and tools would be most useful for people working in coastal restoration and management.

**Please fill out our 15 minute survey at:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DunesTrustSurvey>

Or go to [www.dunestrust.org.nz](http://www.dunestrust.org.nz)

Thanks to TFBIS for funding this project.



## Backdunes Team heads south...

In the past few months the Dunes Trust Backdunes Team has headed south to work with local staff and communities at sites along the west and east coasts of the South Island.

They reviewed a wide variety of dune systems and management regimes. Weeds and animal pests are priority issues at the majority of sites, with some west coast sites being highly modified by high populations of rabbits and weeds.

At Caroline Bay, the Timaru District Council is working with the local community to establish a wide range of backdune species with intensive weed and pest animal control and provision of well managed accessways for beach users.

In Christchurch at Southshore and Bottlelake Forest, the Christchurch City Council Coast Care team involve local groups and schools in restoring marram grass-dominated backdunes with successful planting of a diverse range of native shrub and wetland species.



*Low dense cover of shore spurge and wivi dominate semi-stable backdunes at Caroline Bay, Timaru. Management to protect backdune plantings include boardwalks, regular rabbit and weed control (using hand removal and spraying haloxyfop and glyphosate). Photo: M. Bergin*



*Bottlelake Forest, North of Christchurch, has marram dominated dunes seaward of lowland coastal ponds and wetlands, and adjoining pine forest. The backdune areas are gradually being restored to native coastal wetland species and there is scope to demonstrate the use of pines as shelter for establishing native coastal shrub and tree species. Photo: M. Bergin*

## Sites visited for review and monitoring

In the past four months sites visited to review backdune condition and/or set-up community monitoring projects include:

### Northland

Cape Reinga, Waipu Cove, Uretiti

### Auckland

Piha

### Waikato

Te Kopua (Raglan), Aotea Harbour, Ruapuke

### Whanganui Coast

Castle Cliff, South Beach, Whangaehu River, Turakina (Koitiata), Tangiomoana, Foxton Beach

### West Coast (South Island)

Carters Beach (Westport); Hokitika Beach, Okarito, Gillespies Beach, Bruce Bay, Ship Creek, Haast Beach

### Timaru

Caroline Bay, Otipua Beach

### Canterbury

Southshore Spit, Bottletlake Forest, Woodend Beach

## Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust are restoring the dunelands of Tuhaitara coastal reserve, north of Christchurch

The Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust is working with the Department of Conservation, Waimakariri District Council, friends of the Trust and local schools to restore a large tract of land north of Christchurch.

Their aim is to replace the old willows and pines that dominate a 10.5 km strip of backdunes and riparian areas of the Tutaepatu Lagoon with native shrubs and trees.

They have recently established five 'biota nodes'. These are rabbit exclusion fenced areas (see below), that will be restored with native wetland and riparian species to, in time, provide seed source for natural regeneration and food for native birds.

Local schools are involved in developing and carrying out the restoration plans for each node. Monitoring methods are currently being developed that the students can use to observe and records their progress.

Over 40 people have turned up to recent working bees and through the 2012 planting season the group intends on planting hundreds of native species, including pohuehue, sand coprosma, Carex sp and shrubs.



Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve, Woodend Beach, North Canterbury. Foredunes are dominated by marram grass (above) and backdunes are dominated by a range of exotic species with pine further inland (below). Some pingao has been planted and sand fences erected (above). Photo: M. Bergin



Backdune site (above) where pines have been replaced with native species including harakeke, ti kouka, tauhinu, akeake, karamu and toetoe. Growth and survival rates will be monitored along with comparisons of sites with and without rabbit control and/or exclusion (below). Photo: M. Bergin



## Dunes Trust Backdune Project Contacts

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The Dunes Trust thanks the following partner organisations for their funding and ongoing involvement in the Backdune Project. We also appreciate the fantastic efforts of the community groups working on their local projects. We welcome other partners so please contact us.



Nga Tauru, Waitotara