This grassy playing area, next to a 1950s 'native garden' at Thorrington School, Christchurch has developed into an extension of the bush garden after 10 years. A fence provides some security against unwelcome visitors. The native area will provide an educational resource for generations to come, especially if it is monitored.

This native habitat development at Cannon Hill Park, Christchurch was recognised by a Landcare Research award for sustainable management. Each residential section is covenanted and planted with native trees, shrubs and tussocks according to the different site conditions. Irrigation has allowed rapid establishment, but it has also resulted in rampant grass growth that chokes and hides small plants, making them vulnerable when weeding. Neighbouring sheep have escaped into some blocks, destroying plants and setting back by several years the objective of achieving dense forest cover. It is important not to underestimate the threat from domestic stock, and to allow a budget for maintenance.
At Cannon Hill Park, silver tussock/wi borders a young woodland of native trees.

Contact: c/- 2A Cephas Close, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch.

Ötamahua/Quail Island is Christchurch’s island restoration project. Community volunteers are being shown the correct planting technique. This needs repeated reinforcement as there is a risk of trees being poorly planted on large public planting days.

Contact: Ötamahua/Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust, PO Box 127, Lyttelton.
The 1050 ha Hinewai Reserve near the eastern-most extremity of Banks Peninsula is one of the most successful private conservation initiatives in the country. The land was purchased in 1987 by the Maurice White Native Forest Trust, using trust money, public subscription and the Forest Heritage Fund. Hugh Wilson is the manager, and many other workers have been employed by the Trust over the years, together with numerous volunteers. The vision of the project is to restore a major peninsula catchment to near its pristine state. ‘Minimum interference management’ has focused on vigorous control of introduced animals, promoting natural regeneration of podocarp and beech forest through nurseries of native kānuka and exotic gorse.

Contact: Hinewai Reserve, RD3 Akaroa.

Medbury, Culverden Basin - one of the few reserves of dry savannah-like woodland in New Zealand. The low trees are kānuka with occasional matagouri, and native grasses include fescue tussock and dantonia. There are also many small mosses and lichens and some rare herbs. Management requires a mix of sheep grazing to control exotic grasses, and retirement of some areas to permit natural succession and allow highly palatable native species to regenerate.

Contact: DOC, Canterbury Conservancy.
Kākahu Bush, South Canterbury was purchased by conservation trusts, with the aid of Lottery Board, Community Trust and private funding. This podocarp and secondary forest is being managed by excluding stock, trapping predators, controlling weeds, and looking after historic monuments and geological features. Public walking tracks and interpretation are also provided.

Another South Canterbury icon is Arowhenua Bush, which Fraser Ross and other local Forest and Bird members have worked in for over 20 years. Harsh conditions have meant slow progress. However, with the planting of locally raised seedlings, the use of tree protectors and occasional summer watering, this stand of isolated kahikatea and matai now has a layer of young canopy hardwoods.

Contact: Timaru Branch, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society.
Otipua wetland restoration, Timaru. This project aims to reinstate a former estuarine ecosystem that was destroyed by stopbanking, drainage and reclamation. The work began with major excavation of the land to create some open water and allow tidal water movement. Already, exceptionally high bird counts have been recorded here.

Contact: Environment Canterbury, 75 Church St, Timaru.