

**Management Activity Report December 2019 to March 2021  
Haast Promotions Group Inc. Management Agreement (Volunteer)  
Haast Community Track (Kōkako Walk/Cycleway)**



**31/03/2021**

**Blair Farmer**

**Haast Promotions Group Inc.**

## 1. Background

The previous report dated 17/03/2017 covered the section of Dennis Road (the logging part of the track) which was cleared of gorse and sappling trees.

The next stage of the track was the 2km section through native bush which was a swamp. This part of the track was extremely difficult as the excavator had to work on swamp mats (logs). It required a chainsaw operator working ahead to remove the small trees (see photos). Once this section was completed it was left to dry out and await more funding.

## 2. Activities Carried out from December 2019 to March 2021

- Four companies were approached to price the track, only 2 quotes were received. One was from West Roads for \$165,785.00 plus GST and it was for the construction of a 1.5m wide track. This quote allowed for carting in 1110m<sup>3</sup> of gravel.
- The second quote was received from local contractor Dave Henderson for \$165,750.00 plus GST. This was for the construction of a 2m wide track. This quote allowed for carting in 2500m<sup>3</sup> of gravel (2600m<sup>3</sup> was actually used).
- The successful tenderer was Dave Henderson.
- A Health & Safety Plan was submitted to DOC and approved prior to commencement of work.
- There were no accidents or injuries during the entire project.
- Construction began around 20 December 2019. Work had to cease during Covid 19 and was completed after lockdown ended.
- The extensive work carried out in forming the carpark as well as 400m through the bush at the Jackson Bay Road end was not in the initial contract due to budget restraints. This work has now been completed on a voluntary basis by members of the community. This work has entailed many excavator, truck and roller hours, supply of gravel and voluntary labour.
- A working bee was held to spread gravel on 2 x 200m sections of the track from Dennis Road to Jackson Bay Road and Jackson Bay Road to the beach. This was attended by 6 Pupils from the Haast School as well as 19 Adults, all volunteers.
- A second working bee to plant 200 native bushes (donated by D.O.C. and local people) at the carpark, was held. This working bee attracted around 20 volunteers including some children. Bar-B-Qs, sponsored by local businesses were held at the completion of both working bees to show appreciation to the volunteers.
- The staff from the BNZ at Wanaka in conjunction with our local D.O.C. staff held a day's working bee on the track. A well received lunch was provided for the workers by the local community. The West Coast D.O.C. community has also held several working bees on the track since.
- The Community in conjunction with D.O.C. constructed 20 predator traps and they have been positioned along the track (see photos). These traps are serviced on a regular basis by community volunteers.
- The entire track was completed to a standard allowing access by walkers, cyclists and wheel-chairs/mobility scooters (see photos).
- The track has been extensively used by locals and visitors alike, especially by locals during Covid 19 lockdown.
- General track maintenance including Bi-annual weed spraying is undertaken by local volunteers.

- It is our intention after the track is officially opened (when more funding becomes available) to produce pamphlets and distribute them around and outside of the Haast area to let people know of this wonderful facility.

### 3. Financial

Funds for this portion of the project were received from:

- Lotteries Grants Board
- Westland District Council - Development West Coast
- Westland District Council - John Cowan Fund (Sale of Marks Road)
- Local Fundraising & Small Development fund from Westland District Council

#### Balance Sheet:

Description	Expenses	Funding Balance
Lotteries Grants Board		\$104,009.00
Development West Coast - MDI		\$50,000.00
Westland District Council - Marks Road Reserve Sale		\$29,000.00
Local Fundraising & Small Development fund from Council		\$10,603.50
Miclan Trust - Claim 1	\$42,000.00	
Miclan Trust - Claim 2	\$98,612.50	
Miclan Trust - Claim 3	\$50,000.00	
Signage - approximately	\$3,000.00	
	<b>\$193,612.50</b>	<b>\$193,612.50</b>

**Voluntary Work Completed:**

Description	Quantity
Voluntary Labour to date (approximately)	580 hrs
Excavator	50 hrs
Truck	10 hrs
Loader	25 hrs
Roller	8 hrs
Small Tractors (2)	50 hrs
Small Compactor	8 hrs
Supply of screened gravel	110m <sup>3</sup>
Weed Spray	20 litres

**4. Future Activities:**

This will entail general maintenance of the track and mowing in the carpark area, maintenance of the predator traps and weed spraying.

The section of track to the top of Kōkako Hill (approx 150m) is yet to be completed. It is hoped that this will be completed later this year when more funding is available. While it is accessible to the fitter users of the hill section it needs major work to complete in order to be accessible to all.

**5. Track Usage to Date:**

While we haven't had an official opening of the track yet, it has been in use since pre-lockdown. We are unable to supply actual figures as we have no way of counting numbers using the track. Once more funding becomes available, it is our intention to install a counter. However we can go by feedback that we have received from both locals and visitors and we can report that there is 100% positivity towards the track. Everybody that we have spoken to has had nothing but admiration for the scenic beauty and ease & accessibility of the track. The track is level all the way through and has been used by (wheelchair-bound/physically challenged) people. (See photos)

There have been a portion of visitors who had heard about the track before they visited Haast. In fact we have had people come to the town especially to walk and ride the track.

The Community is extremely proud and grateful to have this wonderful facility in their town and can only hope that it will bring many more visitors to the town to enjoy the track's beauty.

**6. Report Written by One of the Locals:**

The Kokako track, formerly known as the Dennis road track, is a 5.5km wheelchair-accessible walkway and cycleway running on Department of Conservation-administered public conservation land through virgin as well as regenerating native forest from Haast township to Haast Beach.



A management agreement between the Haast community, represented by the Haast Promotions Group (HPG), and the Department of Conservation (DOC), has enabled this walkway to come into being.

It is the culmination of a Haast community vision first suggested around 2009 by several longterm residents, including the late Ian Rasmussen, whose idea was to link the old and overgrown 3km long Dennis road logging track with Haast township by constructing a 2km walkway through the untouched and swampy native forest between the end of the logging track and the township.

There was an absence of nearby places for locals and visitors to take a walk or bicycle ride without having to drive anywhere, or access SH6.

This vision has filled that need.

Over several years, thousands of hours of community volunteer and DOC staff labour, and local donations of machinery use and fuel resulted in the old logging track being cleared of gorse, and a rough, but swampy track being established along a flagged and GPSed route between the end of the logging track and the township.

Following a hiatus in activity due to lack of funding, a successful funding application to the Lotteries Grants Board, plus funds received from the Westland District Council through its fund for major initiatives, resulted in the track being completed to the New Zealand standard for walkways for persons with mobility difficulties including those restricted to wheelchairs and mobility scooters, in 2020.

The track has a side track, accessible to walkers, but not the mobility impaired, which climbs to the top of a small forested hill we call Kokako Hill, from which there are 2 viewpoints separated by about 200 metres, one looking up the Haast valley, and one over the township and out to sea.

The uniqueness and flat nature of the Kokako track lies in it being freely open to the mobility impaired to access and enjoy, unaided in some cases, the natural quiet and birdsong of virgin native forest, within metres of Haast township, and without the need to drive anywhere.

With its wide range of native bird and plant species, the forest offers interest to naturalists and is an educational resource for students, who can witness both logged but regenerating forest, and the huge trees of the virgin forest.

Native bird species likely to be observed are: Fantails (Piwakwaka), bellbirds (Korimako), tui, kaka, kea, brown creepers (Pipipi), grey warblers (Riroriro), fernbirds (Matata), silvereyes (Tauhou), Tomtit (Miromiro) and NZ falcons (Karearea).

Native plant species present include: Mahoe, Rimu, Totara, Kamahi, Ponga, Haumakaroa, Horoeka, Karamu, Kahikatea, Putaputawea, Miro, Matai, Rata, Kie-kie, Kakaha, Silver beech, Kareao, Kotukutuku, Puka, Kiokio, Piupiu, Pseudocypbellaria sp lichens, Tataramoa.

While all bicycles and e-bikes are allowed along the track, vehicles powered by combustion engines are prohibited, in order to maintain that quiet.

This endeavour has been widely supported and used by residents and visitors alike, and is contributing to the spiritual, cultural and physical wellbeing of all users.



Kea



Wood Pigeon



Native Falcon





Repairs on Site, all equipment flown in by helicopter



Chainsaw operator clearing ahead of the digger



Examples of terrain ahead of the digger



Fuel for Digger flown in by helicopter every 2nd day





View from operator's seat



Matting laid prior to spreading of gravel



Track Truck used to cart gravel in to track





Local Identities, The Wright Family enjoying an outing on the track



Community Working Bee Planting at the Car Park







Community Working Bee  
Gravelling at Jackson Bay Road  
end



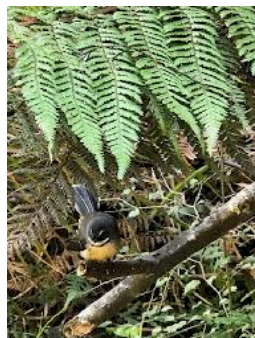
Track through to the  
Beach



Laying of Haast Community  
Predator Traps



Two very happy locals

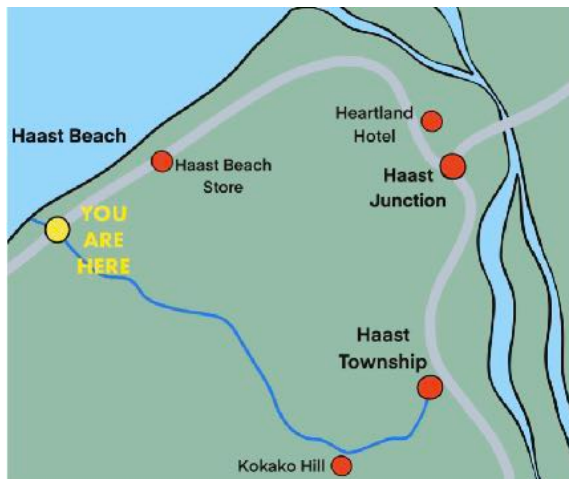
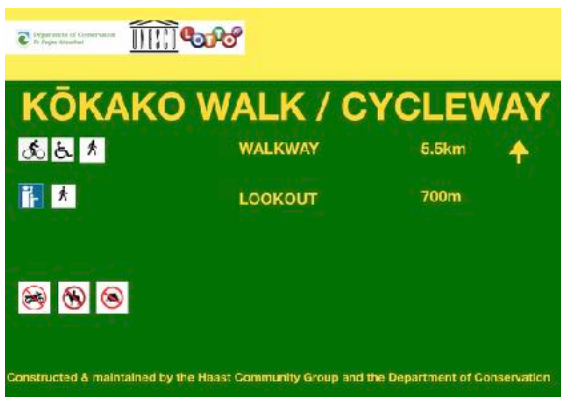




## Overview of Car Park with new



## Sample of Signs to be Erected



SIGNED:

*R. J. J. J.*

PROJECT LEADER