

APPENDIX 5.4: GREATER CATLINS AREA (includes Kaka Point)

Consultation Highlights

Owaka Combined Sports Bodies report a decline in participation numbers locally because of reduced local population, particularly of the sport playing age group. However, the Sportfit Coordinator reports heavy participation in sport by junior age students. This is attributed to the Coordinator providing support with the administrative and organisational tasks and parents being able to focus on coaching the players and managing the teams.

There is a strong school-community partnership in Owaka. The Catlins Area School is a vital supplier of facilities with 14 clubs and groups using school facilities on a regular basis. Many of senior school age students go to SOHS or boarding schools. The school age residents living in the area want recreation provision in Owaka as they often feel intimidated going to activities in Balclutha or just hanging out while “in town” with parent (usually around The Warehouse). Young people were found to be involved in outdoor pursuits like hunting, fishing and motor bike riding in the exceptionally good local environment. They are very keen on any outdoor activities and a surfing instruction day recently organised by the School was a great success. Using local natural advantages like great forests, rivers, beaches and surf for school and community activities has high merit rather than trying to duplicate specialised and expensive sports facilities in Owaka.

Several local actions were identified during the consultation process and these are listed below. These actions will only progress with significant local leadership and community support.

Issue	Consultation summary	Recommended action	Commence	Contributing Stakeholders
Iconic coastal walking track from Papatowai to Nugget Point	A major community initiative has been the investigation of a tourist focused 3 day - 2 night coastal walk from Papatowai to Nugget Point. Estimated cost of \$1 million for track and accommodation development. Current progress has been blocked by landowners opposed to development. A reduced length of track is being considered as is a mountain bike option. There has been no Council involvement to date with the project driven by a trust formed by local residents. A shorter track using paper roads would have open access as opposed to a fee based private track with accommodation provided. An	Catlins Coastal Walk Trust investigate options for an open access coastal track using paper roads	Medium term	Catlins Coastal Walk Trust (lead), Council /District Development Board (advocate), funders

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	open access track would have benefits for local walkers and mountain bikers.			
Catlins Expedition Club	A small group of enthusiastic residents has formed the Catlins Expedition Club that is deliberately low key with a have-a-go approach to introducing adult residents with little or no skills or experience of outdoor activities such as mountain biking, canoeing and tramping. This is an attempt to lower or remove barriers to participation. A range of “expeditions” are planned with preparatory training.	Monitor and support the Catlins Expedition Club as it innovates and possibly use concept elsewhere in future.	Short term	Sport Clutha, Catlins Expedition Club
Owaka indoor facilities including swimming pool	Need for improved use of indoor facilities to provide for wet weather options, evening and winter activity. Suggestions included an upgrade of heating for the swimming pool which currently has a solar system.	Owaka Pool Committee initiate investigation of enhancement of heating system for swimming pool with an alternative to solar heating. The Committee might Council to provide a small grant to help the School with obtaining expert advice on best heating solution from specialist swimming pool engineer.	Short term	Owaka Swimming Pool Committee (lead), Council (coordinator/ funder)