



Westland Industrial Heritage Park (WIHP)

WIHP is a volunteer organisation that helps to preserve the industrial heritage of Westland and the wider West Coast. It provides a place with a variety of projects and activities for all but especially an older demographic. The addition of the Mudfish Bush railway has made the Park more family oriented and that exposes the younger folk to the history of the area. School groups, car clubs and many overseas visitors come to see our displays, a great addition to the District's tourism profile.

We are also a member of the Menzshed organisation.

Background and Timeline

1999 - Peter Read, Collection Officer, West Coast Historical Museum prepared a discussion paper for Council proposing the following:

- that Council approve making two sections of land and buildings at Hokitika Airport, previously occupied by Westroads Ltd. and Council, available to the Westland Farm and Vintage Machinery Club for an industrial heritage park
- that the park stores and cares for the "Jon Olson Collection" of vintage machinery held at Westroads Kaniere Depot and items of the West Coast Historical Museum collection held in temporary storage at Lakin's Garage in Hokitika

Following discussion between the parties it was agreed that the Council form a partnership with the newly formed Westland Industrial Heritage Park regarding the above, on the understanding that no rates, rental, or power costs would be incurred in exchange for the storage and care of historic items owned by Council.

2009 – Hokitika Airport Ltd. (CCO of Council operating the airport), offered an additional two sections of airport land to WIHP for planned new buildings, on the basis that WIHP cleared and developed the land. Over several months WIHP members, using a bulldozer and excavators owned by the park, cleared and filled the land to a high standard. At today's contracting rates the value of this work would be at least \$50,000. The airport manager then thought this land could be used for airport development and offered an area of 4,000 square metres to the east of the park for WIHP development in exchange for the work done.

2010 to 2025 - the additional 4,000 square metres of airport land were developed by WIHP for a miniature railway, including a station and storage buildings, a wetland and native forest area under a Department of Conservation grant, a landscaped public picnic area, a 10 bay Fire Museum building and a large Wheels and Tracks display building.

2016 - A 10 year Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Council and WIHP. The MOU includes an agreement that no rates, rentals and power costs would be charged, insurance of buildings, the historic collection and contents would be covered by WDC and an annual grant would be made for maintenance of the buildings.