

# Summary of Aranui Bike Fixup Outings for 2024

Kids in Aranui often do not get to appreciate the beauty of New Zealand. For most kids, an outing with us is likely the first time they have ever been up the Port Hills, or experienced snow. Connecting with nature is good for mental health and the exercise is good for physical health. Overall we ran 38 rides, averaging 5-6 kids per ride, plus a few extra expeditions, which required around 500 volunteer hours to make it all happen. This was a big increase from 15 rides in 2023, thanks to funding from Christchurch City Council strengthening communities fund to pay for a youth worker to help organise the rides.

# Bottle Lake Rides

Bottle Lake is our default easy ride. It's relatively close to Aranui to transport kids, suits beginner riders but can provide suitable challenges for intermediate riders as well. We often break into two groups for faster or slower riders. Getting to the beach is appreciated when the weather is good for a swim or play in the sand. In winter time we do some night rides with lights on and that provides an exciting buzz. We had 13 Bottle Lake expeditions in 2024.











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# Rapaki Rides

Rapaki provides an excellent up hill fitness challenge for intermediate or advanced riders. Often a kid will attempt it and want to give up after five minutes, but with gentle encouragement they can often get three quarters of the way up on the first time or two, and after several attempts, make it to the top with a great sense of achievement. In winter time we do occasional night rides with lights on with great views of the city lights. We had 11 Rapaki rides in 2024.







































# Summit Road Rides

The Summit Road provides a good bridge in difficulty between the flat forest and very steep Rapaki. We drive to the Sign of the Kiwi and bike along the Summit Road to Sumner, getting a great downhill down Evans Pass with great views of the city and harbour along the way. We had two Summit Road rides in 2024.























# Akaroa Ride

Once a year we try to bike to Akaroa. Its 100 km of steep hills with great views, but is a challenge for the fittest kids. This year we had four kids try it and two pulled out at Little River and two made it all the way, which is expected and those who didn't make it are encouraged to try again next year.















# Broken River Snow Trip

Once a year we take a group to Broken River Ski Field which involves a ride up a steep tram, and a decent walk to the snow, where there are old snowboards and sleds to play on and lots of snow to sculpt and throw around. This is a highlight of our expeditions for many kids



















# Matariki Dawn Ride

To celebrate Matariki we are up at 6 and riding through Bottle Lake forest with night lights on, timing it so we can watch the sunrise at the beach. This year we had a friend with a telescope set up at North Beach so popped in for a close up look at the moon.



















# Mount Somers Tramp

Some of the kids were keen to try an overnight tramp so we took them to Mt Somers Pinnacles hut which was great experience.











# Queen Charlotte track.

Five bike fixup participants were organised to attend this trip, but for a variety of reasons four pulled out last minute so only one made the ride along with a number of volunteers. A hard but enjoyable ride. Overnight bike-packing is something we would like to do more of in 2025



















Solstice ride

