

Aranui Bike Fixup expedition to the West Coast Wilderness Trail 2023



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Aranui Bike Fixup aims to get more people biking and developing a life long love of cycling particularly for young people. Experiencing the beauty of the West Coast and doing a multiday bike ride for the time in their lives was a very memorable, enjoyable and lifechanging experience for the four youth we took along.

We drove over Friday night and thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of the Anglican youth shed which has lots of spaces to keep youth entertained. The biggest problem was dragging them away from the multiple forms of entertainment to get some sleep and get out riding.











Day 1 Greymouth to Kumara

The track starts in Greymouth with lots of storyboards and statues and history of the town along the ride out to the heads of the river which has some great waves and stones and driftwood to explore, along with a dead seagull sadly caught on a fishing line.

















Day 1 Greymouth to Kumara

We much appreciated the discount Shantytown offered our group to make it affordable and absorbed some great history and tried our hand at gold panning, and got a ride on the steam train. The Kumara chasm was a spectacular bridge to cross on the way into Kumara where we stayed at the domain and really appreciated the generosity of the locals who cooked us burgers and chips for dinner. We also went to the Taramakau River for a freshen up swim.

















the short stay
LONG DROP





























Day 2 Kumara to Lake Kaniere

A cooler start to the day with a bit of cloud was good for the uphill sections, and passed some excellent waterways and reservoirs which were all very low after a long period of no rain. Lots of stops to throw stones and absorb the views. Our lunch stop at the bottom of Cowboys paradise was very welcome after some epic downhills, and it was enhanced by meeting a large spider in the shelter. Two of the youth opted to go the last 14km in the van to lake Kaniere for some fantastic swims and leaps off the jetty























































Day 3 Lake Kaniere to Lake Mahinapua

A great day weather wise with clear skies made for a beautiful start riding to Hokitika and an enjoyable swim in the Hotitika river along the way. An enjoyable lunch stop at the Hokitika beach and much appreciated discounts to get into Tree Tops walk which was a spectacular experience





















Day 4 Lake Mahinapua to Ross and a Gold Mine and Cave Stream

Another beautiful day gave some nice views of Aoraki in the distance. This is the first time three of the four lads had ever seen Aoraki. After a well deserved icecream at Ross we went to explore Woods Creek gold mine in behind Greymouth and found some excellent mine shafts to explore with cave wetas and spiders and glow worms. On the way back over the Alps we stopped at Cave Stream for an explore through the cave which is always an excellent adventure.

It was a fantastic adventure and everyone had an enjoyable time and created memories that will last a lifetime, and hopefully inspire more multi-day rides in the future. Another huge thanks to the people who helped us along the way, particularly Tim in Greymouth and Cheryl and Sarah from Kumara, Shantytown & Tree Tops walk and Sam who did lots of van shuttles and food shopping to keep us well fed.











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Ross

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