

TRIP REPORT – FIORDLAND WEEKEND OTMC Bulletin, April 1987, (Page 11)

By Elspeth Gold

We got off the bus at the Divide. The Shelter certainly isn't the most comfortable place to spend the night (for an unhardened bushcrafter), but the flush toilets made up for that. After a restless night, we rose (a bit early for Pam I think) and started to make noises like we were ready for action. Watching people who aren't muesli fans eating muesli was the highlight of breakfast.

First stop Key Summit. The way the track was designed they lulled you into a false sense of security, with a gentle gradient to start with, just when your starting to think nothings a bother, they hit you with the big ups. We had plenty of rests on the way up with me wowing every five steps and saying I need a photo of that stop everything. I ended up wearing my camera around my neck most of the time. The views were breath-taking. A well-deserved lunch break was taken (minus the Salami which was still on Pam's bench) on the Livingstone's.

Pam decided to show us the real Fiordland bush by taking us bush bashing down to Lake McKellar. The bush probably bashed us more than we bashed it, but a good time was had by all. As we came out at the bottom we were surprised by Pam's camera, best time to catch people she said. After a quick rest and a shake of the t-shirts to remove the bits of the real Fiordland down our backs.

We dropped our packs and headed up to the McKellar Saddle. After eating most of Pam's chocolate at the top we headed back to our packs to make camp.

Tea and bed were next on the agenda. We had a sleep in on Sunday and a leisurely breakfast. Next stop Howden hut. We decided a long lunch break was in order at the hut.

When we arrived at the hut there was a few other parties with the same thing in mind, so it was quite social. Barry volunteered to take anyone who was interested up to Earland Falls. I didn't think the human body (this one in particular) could move so fast up hills. Earland Falls were spectacular and well worth the effort. Thanks Barry. We arrived back in time for lunch then on to the Divide to catch the bus.

Mini golf in Te Anau was an added bonus. Thanks everyone, I'd be keen to do it all over again.

Elspeth for Pam Hodgy, Bill & Heather Robertson & Joy Crawford