

GODZone Training Mission:

The plan was to head off into some wilderness over Waitangi weekend, so Ian who has the hunting experience earned the job of sorting out where we would go and play.

It was decided Arthurs Pass would be a great playground to get some good time on feet and the MTB.

Friday night saw us driving into Mt White bridge (via Springfield for the obligatory stop). We rode into Casey Hutt that night under a half moon, clear sky and incredibly mild weather. It was initially hard to adjust to heavy packs on your back, descending became a bit more of a skill and short sharp climbs opened up the lungs and sent the HR skyrocketing!!

Luxury in the DOC Hutt on mattresses for the night, I wonder if we will be so lucky in GODZone.....me thinks not!

Saturday morning saw us ride into Trust Poulter Hutt up the river bed – always good for the riding skills. Here we stashed the bikes and headed off on foot for the next 12hrs. We had all decided on purpose to stay off trails and head into some decent country for some hard hiking, bush bashing and lots of decision making. This was a good call and we learnt a lot as a team, the value of staying together, when to make the call to turn around, dealing with seemingly impenetrable bush, twisted ankles, finding water, remembering to keep eating. It was a great experience. That night we again had the luxury of a hot meal (thanks Ian for dragging the pot and primus around – GOLD!) and a bunk bed in a DOC hut – not so much roughing it happening here.....☺

Sunday morning saw us up to the alarm and tramping into Lake Minchin – stunningly beautiful and really peaceful. We then hiked back out to our bike and rode out the way we had come. It was a great weekend with some highs, lows, and learning what we need to work on as a team. I'm looking forward to our next mission and to see how we gel that much better again.

I feel really lucky to have such great team mates who are wonderful athletes and great people to share an adventure with.

Thanks also so much to Graham and the guys at R and R for your amazing support and supplying awesome gear for us to play in ☺

Thanks also to the guys at Complete Performance for your advice and support. We wear our kit and CP jackets with pride.

