



LIONS CLUB OF TAIERI PROJECT.

IF IT IS TO BE!!

IT IS UP TO ME!!!!

An unforgettable challenge and personal development opportunity!

**BERWICK
OUTDOOR
EXPERIENCE**

A non-profit making project founded on the principles of assisting individuals with personal development.

**TAKE UP THE
CHALLENGE NOW!**



A recently published article from the Twizel Community Newspaper 2021. Three locals, past participants (SURVIVORS) share their 'Experience'.

1.

Laura (Red Watch) 2018:

If you feel like it's time to push some personal boundaries and step outside of your comfort zone in 2021, the Berwick Outdoor Experience (BOE) may be before you. The eight-day adventure will see 40 participants take part in a series of activities designed to push individuals with the aim of gaining confidence as well as working within a team to make the experience all it can be. This year will be the 29th Berwick outdoor experience. The programme started in 1991 and since then, only two years have been missed, 1992, and 2020 – the year of COVID-19. With New Zealand's current COVID-19 status, the course can run and the BOE team plan on making the most of the situation. Kevin Moore, part of the BOE committee – Lions Club of Taieri, said over the last 28 Berwick courses, more than 1,100 people have participated with ages ranging from 18 up to 76 years old. "It is that age range and the diversity of people's employment or lack of that makes it work. And work it does and has done from day one. The course aims are leadership, confidence, self-esteem, and teamwork. "Of course, we can only continue offering this opportunity because of the fantastic support we get from our sponsors whether they are businesses, private citizens, service clubs, or a multitude of other organisations Twizel local Pat Shuker was on the 2017 Berwick experience LEARN AND GROW WITH BERWICK EXPERIENCE and individuals who have supported our endeavours throughout this time. " A surprise offer appeared recently from two Twizel-based people who had done the course before. Kevin said, "As I waited in the supermarket queue recently, I was approached by a past participant. After checking if we were running the course this year, he offered to sponsor a participant from the local community – how cool is that?" It is certainly an incredible offer, and one that will give a local the chance to take part at no cost. If you know someone who fits the bill and would be keen to take part, you can contact Kevin Moore at: glenys.kevin@atrix.co.nz. This year, the course will be held between 7 and 15 May, with a total cost of \$580 per person for eight days. The course is run by volunteers and is a major project for the Lions Club of Taieri. The BOE committee is urging clubs and organisations to participate by sponsoring someone from their local community. So who benefits from this course the most? Kevin said, "In short, people from all walks of life. We need a cross-section of NZ society to make it work and we believe learning from each other plays a huge part in the success of the course. " Consideration is given to those who are 18 years or older, who are keen to avail themselves of this opportunity, have the ability to benefit from it, and can then go on to use the skills learned on course in the community, workplace, within family, and to better themselves. Matt Gunn The course aims are: leadership, confidence, self-esteem, and teamwork.



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**If the Outdoors is for you...
or if not, want to give it a go?**

2.

Before committing to, or ruling out, the Berwick Outdoor Experience, here are some thoughts from two local participants Laura and Lynden Darling. We were separated into 'watches' (teams) of 10 people. Our watches included an array of ages, backgrounds, and personalities. The activities we were tasked with included kayaking, mountain biking Lynden and I took a great deal away from our time at Berwick in 2018 and wanted to share the experience by giving someone else the opportunity to participate. The course challenged and strengthened us immensely and we still draw on the experience to get us through today's challenges, often remarking, "If we survived Berwick, then we can get through this!" Completing the eight-day Berwick Outdoor Experience (BOE) was the hardest and most rewarding time of our lives. We highly recommend this experience to any person looking to learn, challenge, change, motivate, or achieve. The experience has given us new perspective, confidence, and belief in our ability to change and conquer anything! Lynden and I moved from Brisbane to Twizel in late 2016. We were city slickers who loved the Mackenzie country and were looking for an opportunity to develop our outdoor sand tramping knowledge. This was our motivation to embark on the course, but the reality of what the course delivered back to us was entirely more. The course took us to the idyllic Berwick Lodge, 45km south of Dunedin, where we A TALE OF TWO BERWICK SURVIVORS, abseiling, orienteering, tramping, bush craft, first aid, ropes, and knots. We never stopped learning and relished the opportunity to try our hand at a raft of exciting and challenging disciplines. We found the course both physically and emotionally demanding, often crawling into bed cold and drained. We experienced fun, happiness, and adrenaline rushes, but sometimes felt a longing for home as well as short-term disappointment and failure. When we look back on the week, we realised the remarkable part was that we never gave up. The course took us out of our daily comforts and routines. It showed us the value of teamwork and leadership, it motivated us to think harder and physically go further than we ever could alone. We lived, worked, and shared great times alongside these brilliant people, making new friendships and extra ordinary memories to cherish. Critical to BOE's success and in my case, the motivational force I needed to complete it, is the inspiring team of volunteers who run BOE. We feel indebted to this team who invest their time and resources to ensure the course succeeds. We always felt safe and supported by BOE's leadership team. Their encouragement, humour, and genuine concern for the participants' welfare and achievements was incredibly special to see. To say this course delivered us the confidence and ability to go on and undertake our own outdoor adventures is an understatement. After eight days at Berwick, we now know that nothing is impossible. We learned that we have great resilience and are strong enough to overcome any challenges we face. We learned that we will never stop learning or challenging ourselves and understand that in life, "if it is meant to be, then it is up to me". We thank Kevin Moore for his wonderful foresight and drive in first founding and then continuing his commitment to the Berwick Outdoor Experience. We would also like to thank the Lions Club for sponsoring our participation. It was truly a life-improving experience that we feel privileged to have completed and we will remember it always. Laura and Lynden Darling BOE 2018 Survivors