

BERWICK OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

Contacts: Kevin Moore.

Rob Urquhart

Ph Cell: 02 1213 5303 (preferred). Ph. 03 4353 220

Ph: 03 484 7556 rob.heather@xtra.co.nz

Email: glenys.kevin@actrix.co.nz

www.facebook.com/berwickoutdoor/?fref=ts

Web: www.berwickoutdoorexperience.co.nz

Report 2021 – May 7 -15.

Weather: Calm with one wet day and a couple of cracking frosts, almost perfect really.

I posed this question at the final presentation ceremony.

“What do you get when you spend eight days together with folk from South Africa, Scotland, England, Czech Republic, Philippines, Malaysia, France, and NZ?”

The resounding chorus from the floor was “a bloody good time!” My feeling precisely.

Thirty -nine participants started the course ranging in age from 18 – 67 with an average of 28 years.

There were two dropouts during the week. One for personal reasons and the other decided the course was not for her. A no show on opening night was disappointing!

We had even gender split but above all else a group of people who just wanted to give it all they had.

There were some incredibly nervous people on arrival but what a transformation by the following Friday night.

The concert night was a hoot and was topped off by a rendition of the “You life me up” and You Will Never Walk Alone” by Javier from Brown Watch. He received a standing ovation and was mobbed by fellow participants, there were few dry eyes in the room.

There is no doubt in my mind that this course truly changes lives, but it can only do that if the participants buy into what we are trying to achieve. This year we had almost 100% of that buy in we had asked for.

The Lions Club of Taieri should be proud of what they have established here over the past thirty-one years.

Those who sponsor participants or the course in other ways can be assured their money is well spent. Without that support we as organisers and Instructors could not achieve what we do, so take a bow and know you are appreciated.

At this year’s closing ceremony, we had the privilege of hosting the Lions 2021 Cabinet members.

As one who has been a little critical of the support coming from the top over the years it was so pleasing

to see that turnout. I hope they gained an appreciation of what BOE is about and I am sure the buzz among the participants when they mixed and mingled would have cemented that feeling.

Also in attendance were two members of the Mosgiel Taieri Community Board who have sponsored a participant over the past two courses. One member had no idea what we did and was mightily impressed.

How, do you run a course such as this at such low cost (\$580.00) I am continually asked?

That is easy to answer in one word, volunteers.

Firstly, the Taieri Lions and their BOE committee headed by Rob Urquhart, outstanding work Rob.

Then there is the key to it all, in my opinion, our Instructors.

What an impressive bunch of relatively young people they are. Year in, year out giving up annual leave and holidays with the family to be at BOE.

Of course, it is not just those eight days, there is much preparation goes in weeks and months beforehand. All they ever ask for is a biscuit and cheese and maybe a little salmon to go with it as they discuss the day’s events of an evening. There are, I am sure, plenty of people out there with higher qualification, but I doubt there are many with the empathy, dedication and enthusiasm of these outstanding folk. I could not be prouder of you all.

Our lead instructor Scott Weatherall is an extremely driven man, a very busy man with a young family and an inspiration to us all. Make sure you make time for yourself Scottie.

This year we welcomed a new Instructor in Nick Banks, Nick’s dad Peter had a long association with BOE. Nick has already made an impression, welcome Nick.

Thanks so much all those who have contributed. We can’t do what we do without your support.

Next year will be our 30th annual course I hope we can rely on your continuing support to make it a truly special one. Dates for 2022: 6 - 14th May

Kevin Moore – coordinator for BOE