



Wakamarina And Mount Royal Helibike

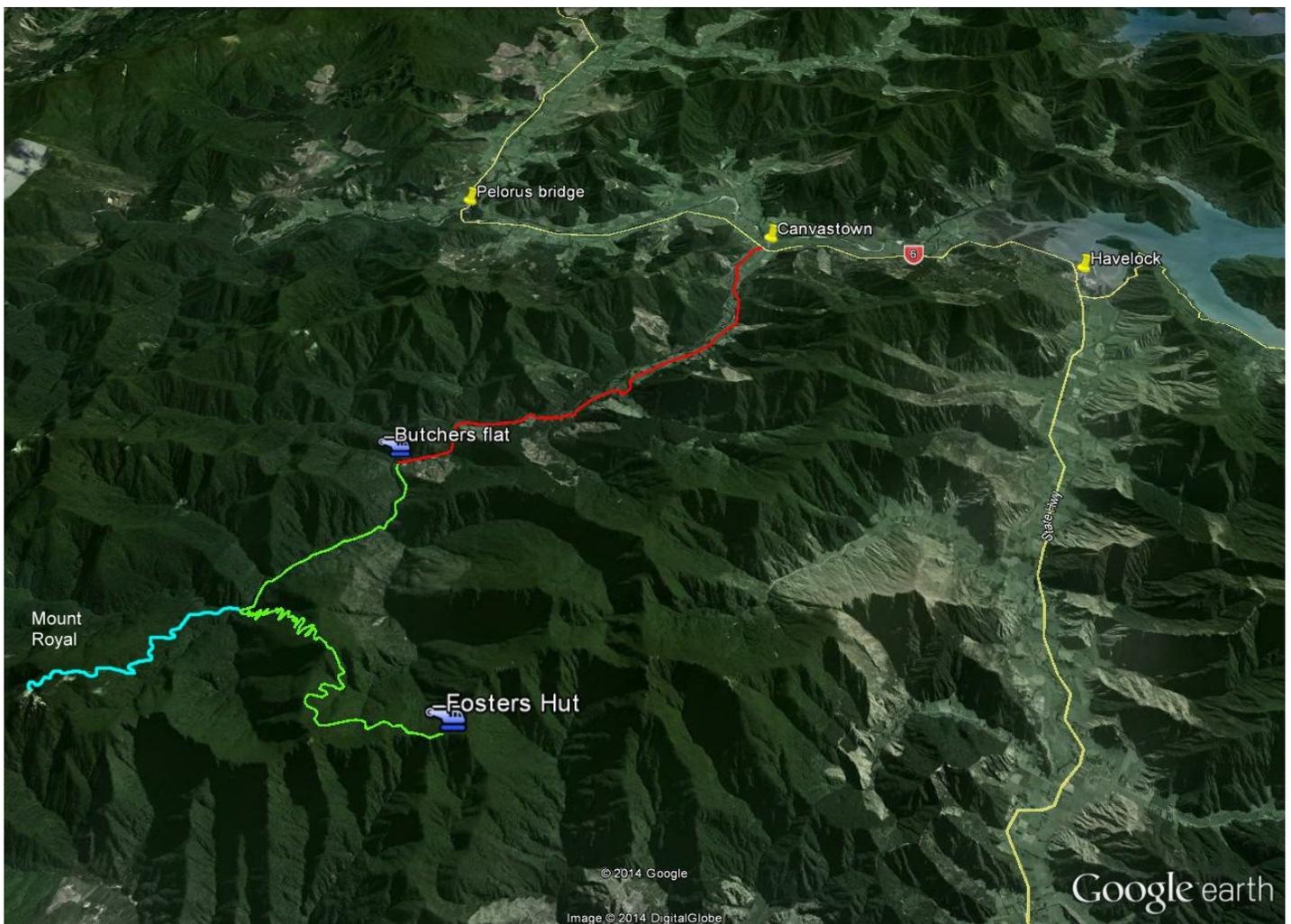
Saturday 13th April 2019



The MTB-Buddies Wakamarina Helibike is a Grade 4+ Adventure suitable for those with a good set of riding skills and a suitable full suspension bike. For those willing to take it on it is a very rewarding ride with a good variety of track, including a huge number of fun ferny switchbacks down the 800m descent to the bottom. We start with a Helicopter lift from Butchers Flat up to Fosters hut. From here you descend for about 30 minutes down to Fosters Creek. From here there is a bit of a push / carry (40 - 50 minutes) up to the top of the main hill and then the most fantastic 800m descent down through the switchbacks to the Devils Creek hut at the bottom. Lastly a ride out along the river valley which is a mixture of gentle ups and downs. There is a technical section at the Doom Creek bridge that it is recommended that you walk due to the hazard. Those that ride it do so at their own risk!

The Mount Royal Option is a Grade 5 adventure on similar track, just a bit steeper and more raw toward the bottom. You end up at Devils Creek Hut and ride out along the river as per the Wakamarina trip

Given that these tracks are often a bit slippery in places, you are recommended to use large block sticky tyres and low tyre pressures to get the best out of the ride.



Map of how to get there

What you need to know

WHEN AND WHERE

The date is Saturday 13th of April and we are meeting at the end of the Wakamarina Valley at Butchers Flat. We will meet there at 09:15 with the first lift happening at 09:30am

PLEASE BE THERE EARLY AND READY TO GO

How To Get There

To get there you drive to Canvastown where the trout hotel is about half way between the Pelorous bridge and Havelock. If you look at the map above you will see where I mean. Turn up the valley (red line) here and follow the road right up to the end. Its longer than you think (13.6km) and the last third is on gravel road that involves fording a couple of streams, a two wheel drive car is ok, though take it easy. Once you are at the end you will need to drive down the hill to the paddock at the bottom and please park your vehicle away from the main grass area where the helicopter will be working. There is likely to be campers there so please be polite to them.

Cost

Cost is **\$150 CASH for the Wakamarina and \$160 for the Mount Royal option.** You will need to give this directly to the helicopter pilot or his crew so PLEASE bring the correct money. We can only get this cost by being efficient and helpful to them! This means turning up on time and being ready.

No cash = No fly

Safety - Important

PLEASE make sure you have all the correct personal protection for your skill level. I would recommend knee and elbow pads for the descent.

You are paying for the Helicopter lift only, then you are essentially on your own, so you need to be prepared with spares for your bike and preferably a riding buddy and a first aid kit between you. There is NO cellphone coverage on the track.

Please ride within your limits, It's not a race and there is no shame in getting off if you are unsure of a section. Please feel free to push yourself, that's the fun of it, but do so in a sensible manner.

There is no easy way to get a helicopter in to rescue you - please remember that!

Track Etiquette and Other track users

We are limiting the numbers to prevent too much track damage and disturbance to other track users. It is extremely important to us that you respect the track and the other track users so that we can continue to offer these trips.

Please do not unnecessarily skid around corners in a "Downhill" style of riding

Please keep to the track - do not cut corners or opt for other lines that may damage the plants etc.

If you come across trampers - STOP - let them pass and say hello - this will be remembered and creates a better relationship between bikers and walker - if you remember your code of conduct - walkers have right of way.

If we observe any bad behaviour we are unlikely to let you ride with us on these trips in future.

Helicopter Basics

For those of you that have not spent any time around helicopters there are a few basic rules that you MUST obey.

PLEASE – no loose clothing, clip your helmet to your pack and put anything loose into the pack, you can keep your camera out. Your gear will be stored in the back by the ground crew and at the top taken out and brought to you.

NEVER – EVER approach the back of the helicopter, always approach the front and keep low following the directions of the pilot or his ground crew. Failure to do this will end up in serious injury or death!

When in the Helicopter Buckle up and stay buckled up until you are told to unbuckle. Put on the Headset closest to your seat and push the microphone close to your mouth. It is voice activated. You will be able to hear each other and the pilot who will advise you if need be.

If you are in the front of the helicopter it goes without saying you DO NOT TOUCH anything

When you get to the top, exit toward the front of the helicopter UNLESS it is up hill, in which case the pilot will ask you to go toward the side – NEVER THE BACK

IMPORTANT

Take **anything** off your bike that could come loose, this includes water bottles, pumps, speedo's, tool bags or anything else that could potentially come loose and store them in your back pack.

The ground crew will deal with your bikes, please bring it across when you are asked to.

QUESTIONS ?

Feel free to email me newport@ts.co.nz

Or phone / txt me on 027 6826357 (027 MTB NELSON)

We only go if there are two criteria met – Safety and Fun Factor, if either are compromised we can't do the trip

Have Fun

Steve