

Abseiling

I was extremely anxious, but excited as group 3 and I walked away from Mt Hutt Retreat and towards a 12 metre cliff that I would have to abseil down. I'm normally not one to fear heights but this had me shaken. It was the first activity of the second day at year 8 camp and a beautiful day for it.

Once we had arrived at the cliff and waiting area we were told to sit on the tyres and listen to Aaron as he told us the safety and information. He showed us how to put on a harness and put on our helmets. He then showed us how to use the safety rope and the main rope.

Rueben was very willing to go first as he had done this before. Rueben going first then inspired Tesh to go, I was up next. It was painful standing in line awaiting your turn. I was nervous walking over to Aaron but he gave a big smile which made me feel better. Aaron is the man that runs Mt Hutt Retreat.

I was standing watching Aaron fasten the ropes to my harness. I was cool on the outside and a nervous wreck on the inside. I was edging closer and closer to the edge. "Megan" Miss Bowman stated "Smile for the camera". Snip. *I thought to myself that I will just go at my own speed and I'll be fine.*

Now I had courage I took that rope with 2 hands, leant back and let my feet do the work. I was slow at first as I was getting used to it but after about 3 metres I was quickening the pace. I was now getting the hang of it, I was like a turtle coming out of its shell. But then ouch! I slipped and lost my footing because the rope was slippery, I regained my position and hurtled down the last couple of metres. I was at the bottom. *I thought to myself wow you have just completed a 12 metre abseil.*

Rueben congratulated me then asked if I would like to do it again. I was well up for the challenge. We had to climb the steep blue zone area back to the top and waited in line for a second turn. It was a long and slippery way up and I was tired when we got to the top, but it was all worth it because going again would make up for it.

It was awesome to stand and watch other people face their fears such as Sammie who was petrified of going down. Everybody cheered her on. Miss Bowman and myself had a little bit of banter going which is always fun. We also had some water competitions such as, who could hold water in their mouth for the longest.

It was the most exhilarating experience that I have ever had and I hope that I will get to do it again next time. Hopefully I

I'm not be as scared as I was. It was great to share my experience with group 3 as they were all fun and had great attitudes. I was scared at first but then found that it wasn't that bad at all. I recommend it if you're up for the challenge.



This is Chris about to go abseiling.

By Megan