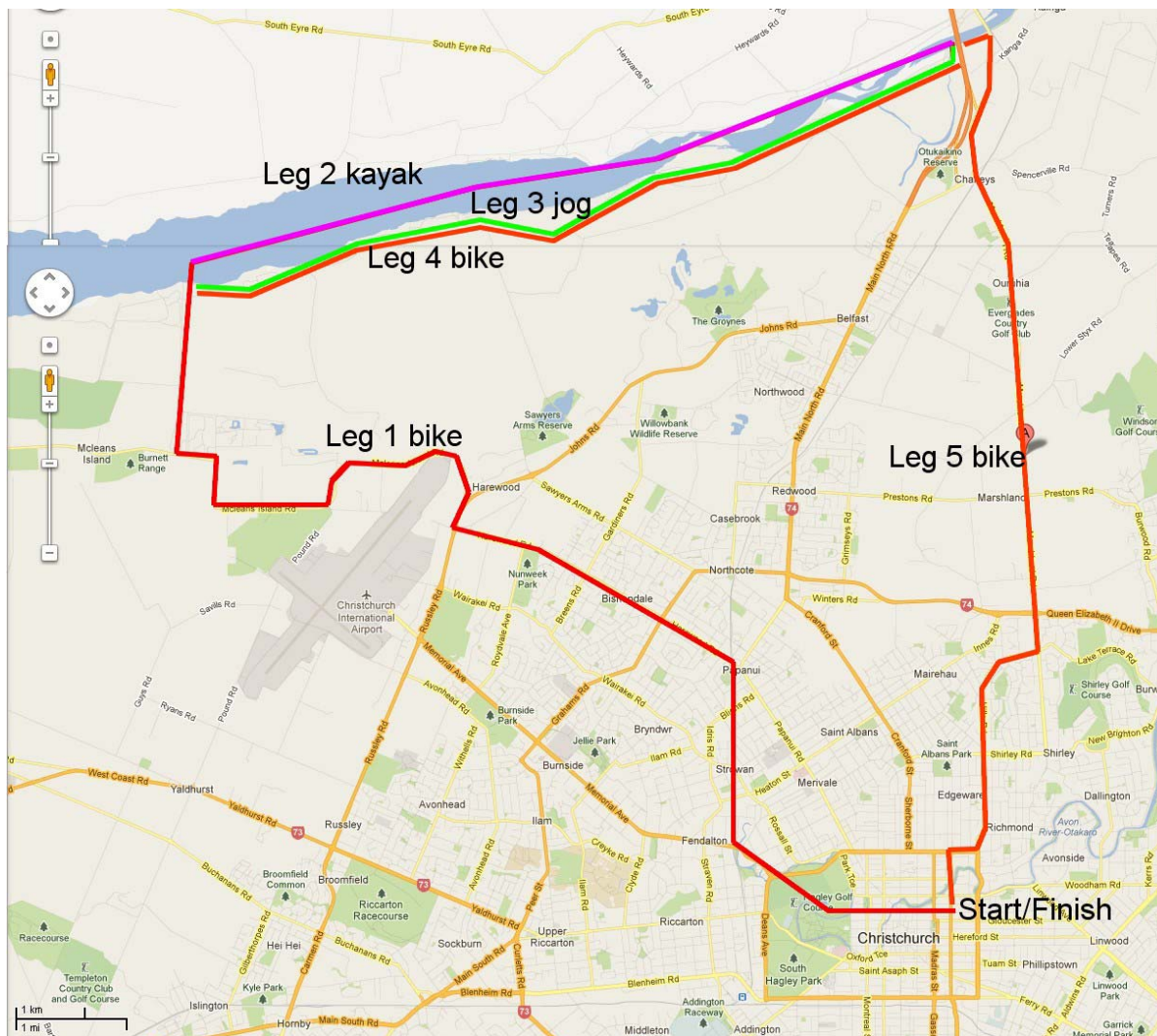


# Fossil Fuel Free Multisport 2013 by Steven Muir

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Five people took part in the world's second ever fossil fuel free multisport outing, which took place on Sunday 17th February 2013. The idea was to do multisport without burning a single drop of fossil fuel to achieve it, in contrast to many multisport events which rely on lots of fossil-fuel-burning support vehicles to transfer gear around the country.

The route was more ambitious than the very successful 2011 outing on the Styx River. It involved a 20km bike ride from Central City to McLean's Island towing kayaks, a 12km paddle down the Waimakariri River, a 12km run back to collect the bikes and kayak trolleys, a 12km ride back to collect the kayaks, then a 15km bike back to central city with kayaks in tow. Alistair Brown was using a home-made trailer to transport his kayak with a wooden bar attached to his seat post with an old inner tube. Andy was using an inflatable kayak in a two wheel trailer (made by Steve Muir). Steve Glue and Maria Evans were using kayak trolleys (made by Steve Muir) with the kayak front handle strapped to a piece of wood extended from the pannier rack. Steve Muir was using a kayak trolley with a specially designed pivoting towbar attached to the bottom of the bike frame which was working very well.



Route map



Lining up at the start point on Armagh St. From the left Steve Glue, Maria Evans, Alistair Brown Andy Cousins and Steve Muir



Biking along Gloucester st

Participants departed at 8am and travelled together at a relatively relaxed pace, with the cycling leg all going smoothly until the river. The crossing at the top of Hagley Park onto Fendalton Road was a little awkward when the lights didn't trigger for long time, and there was not enough room to wait on the traffic island without the tail of the kayak protruding into the traffic lane. The narrow rail-track section required a very slow pace whenever someone came the other way, but all went well until the gravel road just before the Waimakariri River, which managed to puncture the tyre on one of Alistair's aged trailer wheels. The first cycling leg took 1.5hrs, then a 20 minute transition was made to the kayaks involving a quick change of tube in Alistair's trailer wheel while Andy pumped up his inflatable kayak.



Gloucester St



The Rail Track



Going up the stop bank on Haul Road



Alistair examining his first of three breakdowns

The kayak down the river began at 10am and was very pleasant although Andy, who has newly arrived from the UK, had not paddled braided rivers before and his low sitting inflatable struggled with the shallow sections, requiring a lot more getting out and pushing than the others. Still, pushing a light kayak proved to be much easier than the novice jetboat drivers we encountered who managed to ground their heavy fossil fuel powered jetboat on a gravel bank and couldn't move it. Steve Glue leapt to the rescue and provided the sufficient grunt to get them on their way again. The kayak section took 1.5hrs arriving about 11:45 at the motorway bridge.



Setting off down the Waimakariri River



Steve Glue rescuing a stranded jetboat

Another leisurely transition was made to jogging gear, and some food topped up the fuel tanks for the 12km jogging section back to load the kayak trolleys onto the bikes while Meg Christie kindly looked after the kayaks (she biked out of course). Most took around 1.5hrs to do the jog but Andy was a little slower than the others on this section so Steve Muir pushed his bike back a couple of kilometers to meet him and Steve Glue towed his trailer for the inflatable kayak. Alistair hit more mechanical troubles when one of his aged trailer wheels seized its bearings and absolutely refused to rotate. Alistair declined the offer of an extra spanner to help with the repair, and the others carried on to meet Andy. Twenty minutes later a puffing Alistair caught them all up to retrieve the extra spanner, then returned to get his wheel turning successfully. The others arrived back to the kayaks at around 2.30pm and crossed a little side stream to set up the kayak trolleys again and have a bit of a rest waiting for Alistair to catch up.



Steve Muir pushing Andy's bike back to meet him.



Steve Glue with two trolleys loaded for the bike ride to pickup the kayaks.



Andy doing the river crossing.



Steve and Maria about to embark on the final leg.

The final leg was further delayed by a flat front tyre on Alistair's bike (some people have all the luck) but a glueless patch soon had that up and running again, and we got underway around 3:20pm for the bike back along Marshland Road and back to central City by 4:10pm for a well earned cuppa. It was a very enjoyable day out and extra satisfying knowing that no fossil fuel was burned to complete the course. Future events planned include an easier course biking from Central City out to Brighton, kayaking down the lower Avon River, across the estuary, up the Heathcote River, then jogging back to Brighton and collecting all the gear. One day Steve Muir is planning to attempt biking his kayak to Cass Bay over Rapaki track and Dyers Pass, but will do that by himself in case it fails abysmally. Email [steve@cycletrailers.co.nz](mailto:steve@cycletrailers.co.nz) if you would like to borrow a kayak trolley and give it a go.