15 SIR STANLEY WHITEHEAD TO MAITAI

GRADE: Moderate

DISTANCE/TIME: 6km (1 hour)

START LOCATION: Bottom of Walters Bluff on Atawhai

Drive

CONDITIONS: Steep uphill on-road and gentle downhill with some corners to negotiate. Gates to go through.

SUGGESTIONS: Visit Founders Heritage Park or Miyazu Gardens after your ride.

POINTS OF INTEREST: Centre of New Zealand.

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

Bike up Walters Bluff or take your bike up the walking track through the gum trees opposite Founders Park. If you ride up Davies Drive at the top of Walters Bluff there is a steep drive heading straight up hill with a gate at the top. Negotiate the gate and continue climbing until you reach the gate and enter the Sir Stanley Whitehead Track. This is a multi use track so control your speed.

Initially you ride downhill on single track lined with native trees until you reach the first gate. This spot boasts one of the greatest panoramic views of Nelson from the mountains and city to sea. From here the track crosses fields so watch out for grazing animals. Follow the track down to the gate leading into the forested park around the Centre of New Zealand monument.

Continue through the swing gate and after the gate turn left.

This track winds down to Branford Park and the way down was made especially for bikes. After 20 meters, take the track on your left for another steep, but short, climb followed by a delightful and winding track down to Branford Park. Watch for sharp corners and other users. From here turn right onto Maitai Valley Road and right onto Nile Street using the dual footpath/cycle way. Before the bridge, turn right into Tory Street. Follow the road around the Botanical Reserve turning right onto Milton Street. Continue for 1-2km along Atawhai Drive to return to where you began.



