

## Chronicle VI

On our way back to Queenstown we meet the almost extinct *takahe*, an enormous version of the *pukeko*.





We have grown comfortable with our faithful chariot.



As we drive we notice a goat on a post.





Tussock grass is a protected species.



All of us go for one last dinner together. A large kiwi greets us.







After dinner we take a group photo.



Left to right are Dean, John, Linda, Ron, Randy and Nicki. This evening was our last time together as a group.

February 24. Since we leave for Auckland around 3 pm we still have time for some fun before we go. Randy joins us and we decide to take the gondola up the mountain to the bungy jumping site and the site for other activities. Lynn is afraid to get in a gondola but says she'll do it if Randy is really going to bungy jump. At the base there is another kiwi exhibit with a *tuatara* (means *peaks on its back*), an ancient reptile that was around even before the dinosaurs and is related to lizards and snakes.



The male can be three feet long.





Here is a view of the gondola system that fails to capture how steep it was.







Here I am heading for the ticket office.



This is a view from inside a gondola going up.





A nice view of Queensland is seen from the top.



Lynn conquers her fear and enjoys a bungee jump.





We look out at the bungee jump platform.



Meanwhile a paraglider launches from nearby.

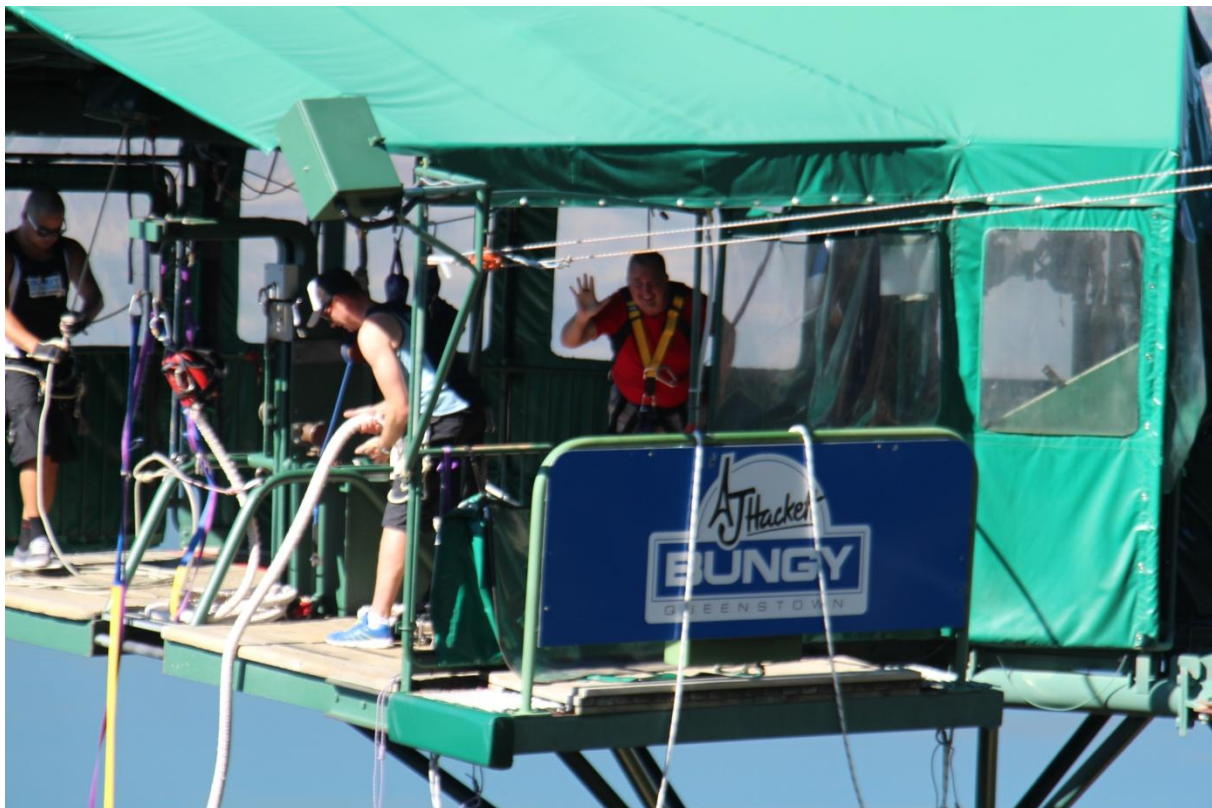




We also see parasailing way down below.



Randy waves from the bungee platform as he get his gear attached.





We hear “I want to reconsider” a bit too late.



After the jump there is the long hoist back up.







Randy's sign-in sheet gave him pause.

**TOE TAG** Mountain BUNGY

FIRST NAME RANDY

FAMILY NAME LEONARD

COUNTRY USA

AGE 53 M/F

WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE YOU DOING IN QUEENSTOWN?

KAWARAU  LEDGE BUNGY  LEDGE SWING  NEVIS BUNGY  NEVIS SWING

We made our way down the mountain by gondola and found our way back to the Rees Hotel for shuttle pickup for the airport. But before we went we stopped off at Patagonia for one last ice cream.





Lynn and I flew to Auckland and then to Los Angeles a few hours later. We arrived in LA *before* we left Auckland. After a night in LA we flew home to Atlanta already well rested. It was a wonderful trip. Having been to Australia and to the Fiji Islands, both in the general neighborhood of New Zealand, we can attest to the considerable differences among these three destinations, and recommend all three.