

HKNHS December 2015 Outing Shing Mun - Chuen Lung

On a cloudy but dry morning 17 members left the hustle and bustle of Hong Kong making our way to Shing Mun reservoir, more commonly referred to Pineapple Dam, for some peace and tranquillity. However when we arrived we found hundreds of hikers as there was a #saveourcountryparks campaign being held that morning. After a group photo under the protest banner we headed off on our walk, passing Pineapple Dam Nature Trail with its gardens designed to attract butterflies, until we reached the start of Lung Mun Country Trail.



The first part of the walk was an ascent of 200 metres which many found tough because of the steep steps and humidity in the forest. Unfortunately one of our members fell ill half-way up so I helped her back to the bus station so that she could return home. In my absence the group were admirably entertained by a song from veteran member Dr Ted, which managed to be both very funny and clean, despite its British Military colonial origins! Malcolm took over leading the group, when they weren't stopping for morning tea and some mince pies and great views of Tsing Yi and the Yuen Yuen Institute monasteries below.

I returned via another track and caught up with the group at marker 06 about 2/3rds of the way along the trail and we continued until we joined Tai Mo Shan Road, walking up to the cemetery for some views of Lamma Island and Hong Kong Island. Before I could guide everyone down towards Chuen Lung, Jan turned down a side path and found an information board explaining that *"in the serene woods of Tsuen Chuen Lung Heung Shek the stones and rocks give off clear and dulcet sounds while being hit by small stones."* After some rock throwing by a few members had disproved this poetic claim, we made our way down to Chuen Lung and an atypical Christmas lunch at Cho Lung Teahouse, which uses water from the mountain stream that runs past the Teahouse to make the tea (*so they say....*)



Everyone ordered their own dim sum, which included siu mai, char siu bau and hargow, and a few beers were consumed to end a great Christmas outing. Looking forward to catching up with everyone in the new year for our hike on 17 January 2016.

Report by Francis Bradley