

## HKNHS Report on Night Hike, Saturday 6 September 2014

Eight hikers set out from Quarry Bay Station on a lovely evening for the first NHS night hike. On reaching Mount Parker, the ascent (half way) was taken quite slowly with plenty of opportunities to look out over the harbour bathed in pink tones as the sun was setting. By the time we reached the turn off for Hong Tak Path it was just beginning to get dark, which didn't stop Chris from being able to identify the song of a violet whistling thrush. With headlamps and torches switched on we set off along the contour path around the side of Mt Parker. The path is quite flat and affords glimpses of the harbour. On the way, the first lucky sighting of the evening - Frank saw a young porcupine. Just before descending we had a beautiful view across the harbour from a huge rock plateau; as it was a clear night we could see the whole of Kowloon laid out with Tseung Kwan O in the background. We were a little early for the light show and decided to make our way down. As we went down the steps, Rose and Malcolm had a "rabbit in the headlights" moment when their torch beam landed upon a small mammal which stared right back at them for a few seconds. This exciting sighting may have been the small Indian civet cat, or it may have been a ferret badger – it is always very difficult to tell at a quick glance. Finally, just before we reached the end of the path, a wild boar rushed past parallel to the path! For several members, these were the first sightings of some of our mammals and made the evening very special. All hikers then gathered in the Macau restaurant for a well-earned beer and dinner.

*No, this is not the one we saw - too fast to take pictures and it was quite dark! – but thought you might like a picture.*



Report by Maureen Boost