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# Former King's pupil treks into the wilds

AWAY  
FROM  
HOME



Otago people  
around the globe

By **BRUCE MUNRO**

JARED Mitchell's support of micro-loans is anything but small.

Today, the Dunedin resident is somewhere near the border of Georgia and Turkey, more than halfway through a 16,000km cycle tour from South Korea to Ireland raising awareness of development aid the micro-lending organisation Kiva.

"It's 10 hours on a jet, a few comfortable days by train, and . . . a long way by bike," Mr Mitchell says.

He and fellow members of the Braking Boundaries team — Tom McCloy, of Ireland, Katie Tibbetts, of the United States, and David Glashan, of Canada — left Seoul, South Korea, on April 11. Mr Glashan pulled out after riding across China while the remaining three continued riding westwards in the hope of being in Ireland by mid-October.

Mr Mitchell, who attended King's High School and studied at the University of Otago, dreamt up the Braking Boundaries tour with his friends while they were all teaching English in Seoul.

"First and foremost, there is the desire to prove to ourselves that with the right attitude, proper preparation, and careful planning, a few determined friends can take on the world," Mr Mitchell said.

The other goal was to promote an organisation whose goals they could identify with.

"Their stated aims dovetail nicely with our own can-do spirit — like-



**On the road again:** Jared Mitchell and Katie Tibbetts riding through the hills of China on the road to Kazakhstan.



**Pass on that:** Jared Mitchell on the way through Kyrgyzstan passes, which were up to 3000m above sea level. *Pictures: Supplied*

and Georgia. The scenery and the people had made it a special experience, Mr Mitchell said.

"Cycling in Kyrgyzstan has definitely been the most spectacular scenery so far, although a little-known place in Azerbaijan called Lahic was also amazing.

"The kindness of strangers in the

nearest town to rest up."

Two days later, he was hit with "a bad case of food poisoning".

"This all happened in Azerbaijan which is a very beautiful country so I was disappointed to not be able to appreciate it as much. . ."

Emailing last week, Mr Mitchell said that "despite having a bad week healthwise . . . the legs are still working and I am excited to enter Turkey".

"For me personally, Turkey has been on my mind since leaving as (from talking to other cycle tourists) it sounds like an amazing place."

After entering Turkey, the cyclists will follow the Black Sea coastline to Istanbul and then up into Greece. From there, they will skip across to Italy and work their way across Europe "with some Alpine action along the way" before crossing to England heading for Ireland.

Mr Mitchell hopes to then return to New Zealand for a few months, "possibly cycling home from Auckland to Dunedin and spending Christmas with my family as I haven't done that in five years".

minded folks helping others to achieve wonderful things. Their work has enabled thousands of enterprising individuals and groups to make their dreams a reality.”

So far, they have cycled more than 8500km on their way through five countries — China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan

‘stan’ countries was also an unexpected highlight, especially in Uzbekistan.”

A particular low point was reached just two weeks ago

“I somehow dehydrated myself to the point of being unable to cycle at all and had to put my bike on the back of a truck for 10km to the

“After that I hope to do an unpaid KIVA fellowship . . . before heading back to South Korea to teach again.”

**Do you know Dunedin people doing interesting things overseas? Phone Bruce Munro on 479-3505 (ext 8311) or email [star@alliedpress.co.nz](mailto:star@alliedpress.co.nz) to share their adventures.**