

# Trip Report

## Inaugural Father/SonsDaughters weekend

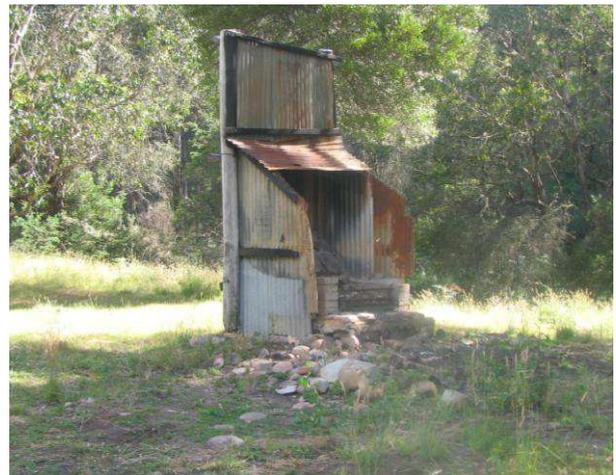
### Kings Hut/Lake Cobbler 28/29th Dec 09

Due to the time of year and short notice there were only 2 starters, David Jackson with Jasmine as co pilot and young David in the trusty red maverick and a soon to be member Mark Beazley with son Cory and brother in law Cam who is now one of the converted, in their 80 series Toyota.

We met at Mackas at 9:45am and headed off (via a drive-through at Edi Cutting - showing the crew where our Christmas party was held) to our second rendezvous - the Whitfield pub - no new takers there, so off to the 1st port of call - the Two Story Hut at the top of McMillans Tk near Stockyard Tk

As in the past I planned on accessing McMillans Tk thru a property gate off Burrows Rd off lower Upper King River Rd but alas it had 4 padlocks on and a For Sale sign so onto plan B – up to Lake William Hovell to show the kids the fabulous sights of the lake.

We then backtracked down Upper King River Rd a couple of Ks and did a RH Turn down Long Spur Track taking a rather mediocre river crossing and then uphill to Stockyard Tk and into McMillans Tk from there. We found the location of the Two Story Hut complete with several horse yards except it was totally destroyed by fire at some stage - floor, water tank and chimney still there and the remains of the horse yards. Nature had well and truly started to reclaim the area.



My previous trip saw a wedding couple being photographed with the Hut as the backdrop - a special time for me as it was the last time I took my Dad 4WDiving. Dad even conned a photo with the Bride.

After a few tears and lunch, we headed back up Stockyard Tk and onto Burnt Top Tk to view the fabulous Razorback - the kids loved the ruggedness and took a heap of photos.

On a previous trip - I was standing on the Razorback itself - when an Air force Phantom jet/F1 11 flew up the valley from the North East, hugging the ground and over the Razorback down into the valley to the South West - a sight and sound spectacular I'll never forget, however not to be repeated today.

Off to Pineapple Flat for a cool drink and a swim, arriving at King River Hut about 5:30 The second disappointment for the trip - King River Hut is now just the chimney, with no noticeable fire activity in the area?? See attached pic.

It was a beautiful spot so we decided to camp there rather than push on to Lake Cobbler. We had a communal kitchen running while the kids set up camp all on their own. NOT!

We had a game of old fashioned quoits to see who got out of the dishes - needless to say (we weren't very good - no winner) we all pitched in.

Cam asked a good question over a few drinks that night - can you join the club if you don't own a 4WDrive, ABSOLUTELY - there's always vehicles with an empty passengers seat on trips and for a six pack of Bourbon or your favourite the seat is yours.

Leisurely start in the morning about 11 am (however Cam was off taking photos before 7) after teaching and reteaching the kids how to dismantle camp and roll the swags that is! Then off to Lake Cobbler via the Staircase only to find NO STAIRCASE ANY MORE they've graded it out into a bumpy piece of second class track. MOST DISSAPOINTED OF ALL "^^%%&^YU^TI&" The crew was really looking forward to the dreaded Staircase - I'm sure they reckon I just made it up!

Arrived at Lake Cobbler - not too many folks there. Boy! did the fires effect the area behind the hut - with very little regrowth so far. Told the group - "we (the 4 WD club) look after the hut" only to hear the boys walking away saying "that's OUR hut!" Had some lunch and then tried to circumnavigate the lake by road - bad decision - turned back and headed for Bennies for a swim and an Air Up.

Water was well down at Bennies so no swim! Headed off home arriving about 4:00

Facilities at all locations were great - plenty of toilets. Roads recently graded - GGRRRRRR!! Quite a few on the road but not congested. The couple of days were pretty normal for our club outings - with just a little more emphasis on the kids (if that's possible)

Jazzie drove the Maverick about half the time - honing her skills, while Cam had a few drives of the Tojo. Now fully converted, his parting words were - I don't know how to explain to my wife about the new 4WD!!

Join the gang!

David J