

# Toolangi Recce

March 2012

By Tom Barnard

Burkey, Kate & I headed off towards Toolangi about 6:30pm Friday evening the 2nd March. We stopped off at Yark for a counter meal, then onto Glenburn for a fuel stop.

Initially the Friday night plans were to only go to a campsite about 10 minutes out of Glenburn. But at 2:30am Saturday morning we decided to call it a night at a nice little campsite near one of the main Murrindindi roads. That night we checked out around five possible camping sites, and near on two dozen different tracks that we thought we might like to tackle on the official TOOLANGI trip. A few good tracks that spring to mind are Campsite Tk, Martins Tk, Aeroplane Tk and yet again another joint vehicle & walking track! Thankfully for us, Friday night it was bone dry. Had we been doing these tracks Saturday night in the wet, they would have been a whole lot more fun (something to definitely do another day).

Saturday morning, those who slept in, (me), woke to join the rest of the crew, the rain, the leeches and Kate squeeling, at about 10am. (Let's just say the leeches were quite friendly and Kate wasn't so appreciative of their very forthcoming hospitality).

We then had a bite to eat for breakfast and it was back on the road set for another BIG day! In the wet this country was quite interesting. We trialed a few good tracks, by-passed some big bog holes that you could lose a Kenworth in, and then turned around at a bog hole that Burkey and Kate lost me in, (that's the last time I check the depth of a puddle for someone else!)..

In I went, and before I knew it I was in up to my neck, and flat on my back, LITERALLY! After a SECOND change of pants and underwear (thanks to the Carsons Tk catastrophe), we were off again. Down some VERY slippery but not so steep tracks, then up very steep but not so slippery ones, and then we came to Rocky Tk! Well, Rocky Tk starts off as a nice smooth flat track, but about half way through it splits into four! The four options range from Very Difficult, Steep with many one foot vertical rock steps and ends up at Very, Very, Incredibly Difficult, Very steep with many four foot vertical rock steps! So, as usual, I took the roughest way down. It was a lot of fun but I swear my heart only started beating again once I got back on the flat bitumen. The Burkes took the other quite difficult option and made it look easy!

After driving for 18 hours out of the 24 we were there. We thought we had just about covered enough to fill in a weekend and cater for between 4 and 6 vehicles, and as the rain started to get heavier, it was a unanimous decision that we head for home. That was at 6:30pm Saturday evening. After a quick stop at Yea for dinner, that was the first RECCE done!

It isn't easy to fit 18 hours of solid driving into a 2 minute trip report, so I will say that between the three of us, we shared a lot of very funny moments that I have left out. But I am sure they will all be re-lived during the actual trip! YOU WILL JUST HAVE TO BE THERE!!

Tom