

Spontaneous High Country Weekend Trip

An impromptu weekend trip that originally started with two work colleagues in two vehicles wanting to go on a quiet relaxing trip quickly grew to seven vehicles with some members of the club joining in once they heard a trip was on.

Starting from Benalla on Friday at lunchtime, Mick Watson in his Toyota was in the lead and was joined by Burkey and Kate in their Toyota and at Cheshunt were joined by DJ, grandson David and friend Luke in the mighty (*cough, cough*) Disco, and Graeme Martin in his wife's trusty Toyota. After winding through some beautiful scenery with some stops along the way to relive Graeme's childhood home and admire the lovely Dandongadale Falls (which was just a trickle), we arrived at Lake Cobbler and set up camp.

Some of us wandered to have a closer look at the waterfall which was accessible by a long walking track. David Junior and his friend took Burkey, Mick and I via a shortcut they had found which put Tough Mudder to shame!! Once we got to the waterfall the view was just lovely. There were a couple of little deep pools which some of us sat in to cool down, while others took photos of the surrounding views. Due to the extreme fire danger rating which Helene had kindly informed us of later that day, we ended up cooking inside the hut at Lake Cobbler and had to tell some other campers they could NOT set up an open fire and to cook inside the hut also.

Whilst enjoying our lovely meal and picking tiny black bugs out of our dinner and our hair, we were joined by Tom, Zoe and their friends, Toby and Alyce, Tim Meek and Jasmine Ferguson. After everyone set up camp and sat around the imaginary fire to chat and drink, Burkey and I trialled our new shower with Mick's pop-up-suitcase tent. We felt very cleansed and refreshed afterwards, and "oh, what a feeling!". Looking forward to using it more on our trips now.

Saturday morning after breakfast, we all packed up and headed off towards the King River Hut which was our next camp site for the night. Again, winding through some lovely scenery it was not too long before we

arrived at the Hut and set up camp. DJ, David Junior and Luke left to go back home, so a few of us escorted them out via Pineapple Flat. Realistically, it was just an excuse to go for a drive and explore. When we got back to camp a number of us went river walking (an exercise which rivals boot camp). Following our gruelling but terrifically fun walk, we all sat in the river and had some drinks before dinner. Mick cooked a roast in his special camp oven and shared it with Burkey and me. Well, I gotta say, he probably would have won Masterchef! It was simply delish and the vegies were tasty. Mmmmm..... yummy. Burkey and I had another shower (can really get used to this camping thing now) and felt heaps cleaner. Tim and Jasmine also used the shower and said they felt better (obviously they did as they went out later and bought one). After having some more drinks and with Graeme and Mick spinning out Morton jokes we all soon retired for the night.



Sunday morning was another beautiful day. After breakfast we decamped and this time I drove, (Graeme's idea of a gender change with drivers) and made our way towards Craig's Hut. I had always wanted to see this iconic area ever since "Man from Snowy River" came out when I was in high school.

I was not disappointed!!! The views!!! OMG...breathtaking! I could just live there and soak up those views day after day.

After photo takings, we left to head towards Mansfield for lunch but found that the route was closed. We ended up taking an alternative route back towards Whitfield along Wild Horse Gap Track which had some interesting undulations. We stopped at Whitfield for ice creams, then parted ways to head home.



It was a fabulous weekend with great company seeing as it was only going to be Burkey, Mick and I initially. It was not a Wangaratta Club 4x4 trip but a trip that originated because of like minded people – any excuse to explore in a 4wheel drive. A very big thanks to those who came along to make it an excellent and relaxing weekend.

Kate Burke

Wombat State Forest Trip

David and Chris Jackson, along with Brett Grant and Johnno, Tom Barnard and Zoe Brooksby, Tim Meek and myself took a trip to Wombat State Forest.

Tom, Zoe, Tim and I met up with David and Chris, Brett and Johnno at around 9.30 pm Friday night, at a campground just out of Blackwood North. Luckily for us the campfire was roaring when we arrived, it definitely took the chill out of the wind!

Saturday we drove 113km crossing over between the Wombat and Lerderderg State forests and Mount Macedon.

Throughout the day there were a few prickly situations that resulted in detours and u-turns. The highlight of Saturday was the four abreast convoy up the dubious hill climb near Mount Macedon (of course the Pajeros got there first!).

We said Goodbye to David and Chris at O'Brien's Crossing Campground before continuing on to Nolan's Creek where we set up camp for the night.

There were marshmallows roasting courtesy of Zoe and it was certainly not as cold as the night before.

Sunday morning, we had a laid back breakfast and finally hit the road at around 10.30 after Tim's Pajero had a little hiccup with dicey fuse and flat battery.

With the intention of heading up Mount Wilson we followed some good tracks before we stumbled upon two Patrols stuck in a mud hole. After lending a hand to pull them out, and letting them pass, the two Pajeros

