

My plans next morning, before I dropped young David off at work in Rutherglen, was to investigate a fabulous new track Chris and I found a few weeks earlier.

Located about a third way up Buckland Spur Track, it cut east down the side of the Spur directly toward Top Crossing Hut.

We had previously driven down it to the Hut, so this time we drove to the Hut and proposed to drive up it. What a fabulous challenge this was going to be - a better daylight trip than including it in last night's agenda.

What we found was a wire barrier fence at the Hut and horizontal logs like a staircase covering the whole track as far up as you could see - couldn't believe my eyes. I guess they simply cut it in between the two tracks to save travel time during the fires and then decommissioned it afterwards. Oh well, at least got to drive it once.

Time to head off - clock was ticking. A great night drive, overnight camp, good mateship and all still putting in a full Saturday's activities, as if we stayed home watching TV. I know where I would prefer to be.

Keep your eye out for other short notice trips - this one was notified twice by email to the club's list in the preceding 8 days - there's usually plenty of places so don't be shy in coming forward. Dj

TOOLANGI DAY TRIP

As you are all aware, there was a picture on the front page of the April newsletter of a vehicle with its tail end in the air. There is a story behind that....

On Easter Saturday, Burkey and I in our trusty Cruiser, Toby in his Prado, our son Michael and his friend Tim in Tim's Toyota ute, all went to the Toolangi State Forest for a quick day trip. Leaving Benalla at 7.00am we travelled to Yea and topped up our fuel before entering the forest. The day was lovely but cool and there were showers expected in the afternoon.

All of the tracks we travelled were part of the Toolangi weekend club trip last June but as it was drier this time the tracks were not as difficult....unfortunately. In this particular picture (*below*) the track was Downies Spur Tk. Burkey said to young Tim that he had two options - hard or extra hard.



Tim and Michael being young and foolhardy chose the extra hard option. There was silence as the boys entered nice and easy. Then, all of a sudden the front nose dived forward and both boys yelled out in surprise. Tim attempted reversing with absolutely no luck. Michael clambered out of his window Dukes of Hazard style and attached a snatch strap to the rear of the vehicle and our Cruiser. Burkey snatched Tim out cleanly and we surveyed the resulting damage. There was water inside the vehicle, water throughout under the bonnet, a waterlogged air filter and the headlights full of water. But being a trustworthy Toyota, it started and ran, although a bit roughly.

We continued on our merry way with no other dramas, stopped for lunch then continued on again.

Arriving at Joe's Spur Tk (you gotta ask Tom about this track). Burkey said to Tim that he could give it a go if he wanted but it that could be difficult.

Tim and Michael, of course, could not turn down a challenge, and off they went. We could hear Tim's vehicle working very hard then, silence. The boys were stuck. So Burkey and I followed with Toby behind us. The boys were about halfway up the track. Then we got stuck and so did Toby.

Three hours later, after winching each vehicle bit by bit up the track we were on our way again.

We decided to traverse two tracks the opposite way before finishing at Rocky Track. By this time it was getting dark and we were getting pretty hungry.

We had dinner in Yea on the way home and arrived back in Benalla around 9.00pm.

Photo: *Tim's Ute...another angle...ummmm!*



Kate Burke (*Great story...Ed*)

Photo: Recent 4WDVic Training weekend including our, Tom Barnard, Peter and Kate Burke.

