

Jamieson Broadside Weekend 17 - 18 September

Doctors Creek Camp ground just outside Jamieson was the meeting place and first night camp-site on Friday night for the much anticipated Jamieson Broadside weekend.

Brett and Dale in their Pajero arrived during the afternoon to prepare camp and a roaring fire. David J, young David F and Dino in the Disco 3 arrived just before dark while the remaining party made up of past president Robbo in his GQ, Burkey and Kate in their 80 series and leaders extraordinaire Tom B and David A together with younger Tom A and the ever present Zoe in Toms revamped GQ patrol arriving just before 9pm.

Camera man for the weekend was young Tom Ashford - quite a professional operator with a video camera (sometimes 2) darting here and there, jumping out the vehicle at various opportune times to get the good shot - well done Tom, keep it up.

Camp-site next morning showed a plethora of (club) camping styles from the family dome tent, thru a 'not sure what you'd call it Robbo' tent balancing on top of a picnic table, to all manner of swags strewn around the camp ground - all with the single vision of keeping well away 'read out of earshot' of the two snoring David's.

Brett and Dale were last to bed and so deserved to be first up next morning continuing the laughter and hysterics that a weekend away in the bush seems to conjure up with most of us.

9:30 was take off time with Tom leading the way towards Mitchell Track which seemed over the next two days to go on forever. Other than 2 monstrous stepped and rutted hills - one we eventually got up, the other not, and one very tricky water course which caught Brett out in, and one very rutted, covered over boggy, downhill curly track that reminded us of the Borneo Rally - every part of the Jamieson area would be in my mind classified as HARD - not necessarily extreme as we only used the winch a handful of times - but continuously Hard every moment of every day. The tracks were very steep and rough with well placed boulders and wash ways waiting for the unwary, maximum speed on any smoother section was never over 40km/hr and these were never any longer than 50 meters or so.

This Hard classification would be a club classification NOT a 4wdVIC classification from whom there wouldn't be one for this type of terrain. I haven't in all the years of 4wd driving encountered an area (Jamieson) that was entirely made up of extreme hills and valleys without relent.

Made camp the second night a little bit late as we encountered a closed/locked gate (one of many of the weekend) that saw us detour for a 2 hour night drive in order to get down off the mountain. If you've never done a night drive in the bush the scenery is spectacular. At one point we (as tail end charlie) watched from up on a bluff as the other 3 vehicles climbed a very steep hill in the distance - the headlights showing the vehicles snaking up the mountain climbing to the summit - an awesome sight.



The camp ground was accessed through a (river) water crossing (quite a distinct difference to a daytime water crossing). It wasn't until waking in the morning that we realised what a pretty spot nature had provided for our emergency campsite.

Next day we headed off to the second location Tom had designated for the weekend - The Jeep Track - however after a council meeting it was decided that it was too far away and that we would potter around the Jamieson area for a few hours and then call it a day.

So, down into Jamieson for fuel and nibbles and then back into the hills onto a very innocent looking track WELL! we thought yesterday was tough - we found Sappers Track, the 2 Ferguson

Tracks and finally the top end of Mitchell's Track that gave us such a hard time the previous day.



We did get out (read retreated) as we did want to get home that night. Back into Jamieson for a quickie and an air up and said our goodbyes - home before dark.

Now that I've hopefully painted a picture of the terrain and the weekend adventurers, I'd like to hone in on a few events and personalities of our trip.



- Both nights accommodation areas were fantastic - sites were pristine, clean, mowed 'read close cropped by kangaroos' and had acceptable loo facilities, alongside fresh flowing creeks. I never heard any snoring - I don't know what all the fuss was about.
- Weather was ideal - warm days with a hearty fire at night - lots of laughs around the campsite. Shared a lot of our cooking facilities and supplies - worked really well. As usual took too much food, and noticed that the cars never re-packed as well as they did at home before we left - funny that.
- I've noticed a couple of similarities between young Tom A and the President - maybe future President material?? 1/. Competition on who was in bed first - Tom A just wins out. Pres wins on who's last out the swag in the morning thou. 2/. Didn't/couldn't drink a whole lot. 3/. Loves his tucker. 4/. Never does his own dishes. 5/. Uses any excuse not to be in the back seat. 6/. Loves having things on film for future recriminations.
- Past president Robbo was at his usual best - keen on tackling the gnarliest hill - a fine selection of food at his disposal and every conceivable bit of kit in his wagon, I think! It was full up anyway!
 - Robbo had to leave us on Sat night for a previous engagement - offered to drop young David F off at home on his way as he was not too well. Thanks Robbo for a fun day.
- Dino was a great co-driver, always encouraging (even said the Disco was nearly as good as his Toyota) and was always in the thick of it helping out - even on the sides of the hills and in the bogs. Didn't eat much so I had to force feed him at times. Comes an equal third in staying up late with his jovial laugh heard echoing thru the hills.
- Brett Grant - my son in law. He's staying with Chris and I during the week until Christmas while working in Wodonga. You'll get to meet Brett at the meetings - he's a passionate 4WDriver and dirt bike rider (formally a downhill BMX rider) who knows the bush areas very well. Brett drives a stock standard (other than Cooper STT's) Pajero and helped Tom out leading on the weekend in the areas that he knew. Without going into lots of detail - Brett led us in his stock Pajero into places/tracks that simply amazed the rest of us. Only being curtailed by deep water and obstacles that were physically impossible to pass. It was a shame to witness after his water dunking the sodden contents of his rig - including a brand new camera, mobile phone, his mapset and his new chainsaw, no doubt lots of other stuff on further investigation. He's a real fun guy and easy going. He showed us all what can be achieved using skill rather than accessories and horsepower. Dale his mate also a dirt biker loves the bush and traveling with Brett - formerly a chef and now an electrician.
- Burkey and Kate Burke newish members from Benalla fitted in perfectly on their first weekend trip away. Both Burkey and Kate sat and passed their 4WD training recently and as a couple work very well together off road. Burkey does most of the driving while Kate is no slouch behind the wheel, does the river crossings because she does them so well. No problems with the 80 series on the weekend even thou it's a Toyota. A very unique setup inside where they both sleep and keep all the goodies - well done guys had a great time with you.
- Club trip coordinator and Joint trip leader Tom Barnard as usual the consummate leader brought it all together, well prepared and part of every recovery situation over the weekend. Tom's vehicle, recently upgraded and reconditioned since his flooding, was the lead vehicle thru all the more extreme situations and therefore well positioned should winching be required. Tom continues to evolve as a natural leader and continues to inspire his fellow club members with his ever increasing skill base. He had as always his ever present mate Zoe, never troubled by his antics and always there as support.
- Joint trip leader David Ashford fantastic backup as usual did his normal sterling job keeping everything together. Riding shotgun with Tom making sure everything was in order. Congratulations.



The trip was classified as Hard/Medium and we were led to believe that we were in for a challenging weekend with lots of steep, rocky & muddy tracks. Very picturesque scenery & great company with lots of fun to be had, and plenty of friendly rivalries.

Results 10/10 - Sounds like a very successful 4WD trip

David Jackson





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