

# Trip Reports:

Track Torque

## Mt STIRLING

**Saturday 27 March..**Day trip to Mt Stirling back to Sheeppark Flats through Pikes Flat. [Map: Rooftop's Mansfield-Mt Howitt Adventure Map]

This is a great day trip to take visitors; spectacular mountain scenery, several climbs for the energetic; and – if the swags are in the vehicle- some great camping spots.

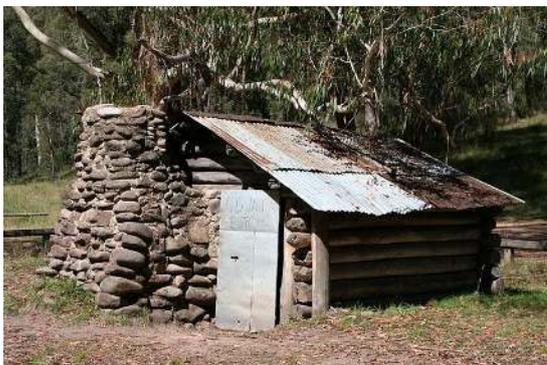


David Blore drove his trusty Landcruiser with Terry & Meg Dillon as his guests for a quick run around the tracks before some are closed for winter. By 10am we were on the Mt Stirling road after an early start and a great coffee in "41" in Mansfield. After Telephone Junction we climbed up the Summit Tk to Mt Stirling to find a lone walker starting up the track to the top. We joined him and with cameras snapping hit the summit with its spectacular 360 degree views. Steve the walker hitched a lift with us to Craig's hut where we stopped for morning tea. David drove him back to the GGS hut trail from which he could take a new route back to his car.

We headed back towards Craigs and after dodging the horse trail riders turned off onto Monument Tk. Monument Tk which was graded as a "double black" was dry, a bit rocky in parts but otherwise seemed more like a 'medium". Continuing onto Bindaree Rd we drove to the Falls. Another short walk took us up to Bindaree Falls which were running nicely after the recent rain. Resisting the urge to stand under them we snapped away and returned to the car. Surprisingly for a Saturday the tracks had been absolutely empty until the Falls where we found two cars. We turned off onto the Bindaree Hut Tk where we planned to have lunch at the stubby little hut and camp ground there.



After a lunch stop we drove on through Pikes Flat camp ground [my pick for a nice overnight camp]and turned off onto 16Mile Jeep Tk- another "double black"!!! Again, the track was in good condition and seemed like a pleasant drive. Two 4x4 convoys and a couple of bike riders shared the tracks with us in the afternoon. We stopped at Bluff hut [crowded with 4 cars] did a short stroll to the edge of the escarpment and looked out over rolling lines of hills. We declined the longer walk to the Bluff summit [ 3 hrs return] due to lack of time and continued back to Bluff Link Rd where, after a few kms the Refrigerator Gap Tk seemed like a nice detour with great views of Mt Sunday along the way.



Brooks Rd took us back to Sheeppark Flat, our starting point, which we couldn't leave without a quick look at Fry's hut and its camp ground. Lots of campers were already settled in at Frys and Sheeppark Flats in anticipation of Easter. If you have the time and inclination try the Eagle's Bluff [4 hrs] walk at the junction of Bluff and Brooks Rds. It's a climb but the views are supposed to be certainly worth it and it will get you out of the car for a while!

Perfect autumn weather, very few other drivers out there and good company made this a very pleasant day trip out and about the Mt Stirling area. Thanks David – Meg Dillon.