

# Trip Reports:

Track Torque

## Upper Jamieson Hut, Pineapple Flat. 27th-29th May.



Basically, we all met at the fryers hut near Sheeppyard flat at 10.00 am Friday 27/5/11. We were a small party of three vehicles myself (Nissan) Rob & Charlotte (Toyota) and Campbell (Nissan) also carrying Baz one of Campbell's mates. From fryers hut we progressed up the Howqua track to the slate quarry (Mitchells station/track). This track was interesting especially the red clay at the end of the track which provided no grip and a very controlled slide was the only way of getting to the bottom (no damage to vehicles here). Some advanced 4x4 techniques were employed on this track with acceleration applied going downhill to try and maintain grip, or in my case shutting my eyes and

hoping for the best! (not really though 😊) Mount Sunday Road was next then Low Saddle Road (difficult and longer section). It was here we had our first mishap which involved a Toyota (of course) which for some unexplained reason lost four bolts from the passenger side steering arm and was then stopped only by the highly skilled 4x4 driver, which left the vehicle pointing downhill with the wheels in a straight alignment. After walking the track for a couple of hundred metres only one bolt was found so it was replaced along with a bolt from the good/attached steering arm side. This temporary arrangement gave the vehicle two bolts on the near side and three on the off side. There is a lesson here about travelling in the bush in a group and not on your own. Low saddle road led to Son of Bitch spur then Nobs track, no problems on these's tracks. Our first campsite was planned to be the Upper Jamieson's Hut but was full of hunters. We camped just off the main drag and managed to get a fire going quickly. Next Morning Rob headed out toward Mansfield along Brocks Road and reached there without a problem around midday ( we were in contact with him from the lofty hills by mobile).



Campbell led the next stage of our journey which was along the Cairn Creek road to Lovetts Hut/Picture point then Bluff Road to the Bluff Hut where we contacted Rob and found he was OK on the road below us. At the Bluff Hut we helped out a party of motorbikers with some fencing wire to re-attach a foot peg. Next 16 Mile Jeep Track saw us down to Pikes Flat/shed then on to the Bindaree Hut. Bindaree Road to the Monument track and Craig's Hut where we elected to camp for the night.



Lovely still night fantastic scenery, no sounds and plummeting temperatures saw us early in to our swags. Next morning a massive frost and the sun coming up was a rare treat. Honestly, it was bloody freezing outside of the swag, but toasty inside. It was one of those rare occasions when the sound of silence really worked around the camp fire, as we all listened to the sounds of the bush and the crackling of the fire and just took in the enormity of the surroundings before us.

Sunday saw us drive on to the Circuit road then on to Black Landing road down to Pineapple Flat for a quick stop. I led from here, up the King Basin road to The Weston Track. This track is one of those you will all have to do

some time, its very rocky and hard on the tires (rated difficult) with some very steep ascents but all good fun in the right gear and a bit of common sense. The bottom of the track has been literally washed away by the flooded creek and there is an unofficial detour which is just magic to cross. The track at this point will almost certainly be closed by the authorities soon, so get down there as quick as possible and take it all in. We came out of the area via the No3 Road, Carters Road which has been severely damaged by flooding, then Buttercup Road and on to Mansfield.

The tracks we used were difficult in places but on the whole have been graded to almost flat and really need a bit more traffic on then to get interesting. Good trip, enjoyed the company, whens the next one?



Robbo.