

BIRTHDAY BASH 2015 TRIP REPORT

Due to the unforeseen weather we had before the Club's Birthday Bash weekend, our committee met the Tuesday night before the weekend to make some decisions. It was decided that the best and safest alternative for all members participating on the weekend would be to change the venue to the clubrooms at the N.E.C.C. (North Eastern Car Club) in Tarrawingee.

The weather forecast for the Buckland Valley the days before indicated plenty of rain and the forecast to be a lot wetter over the planned weekend. With 15-20 vehicles expected over the 2-3 days it would more than likely have left an impact on the camp ground. It also would possibly have been more dangerous for our caterers to do their job safely in such conditions.

FRIDAY EVENING 29TH OF MAY,

Friday evening saw about 10 or 12 members arrive at the clubrooms to set up camp and have a few yarns and refreshments around the camp fire to start off the big weekend.

SATURDAY 30TH OF MAY

Saturday morning saw most of the members that were joining in on the club's birthday celebrations arrive and set up camp. 14 vehicles



Photos: Saturday before the trip the vehicles assembled...



lead by Tom and Tim, headed off on the first drive at around 11:30am travelling towards Beechworth.

Whilst we played around on the tracks amongst the pines we came across one track in particular which was a challenge for some and a little bit hair raising for others (ask Steve Fuller). We eventually headed back to camp via Yackandandah to arrive there just after 3:30pm. Our own master chefs Graeme and Helene from "ALPINE GOURMET GOODIES" had a nice spread of nibbles waiting for the hungry mob on their return. Around the camp fire there were a few stories told of the drive just completed.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Saturday night saw about 36 members and three visitors sit down in the clubrooms to a nice cooked roast dinner and dessert prepared by Graeme and Helene. Andrew Brown and Steve Fuller set up and displayed photos on the big TV screen from the day's drive. Thanks to Andrew Brown and Kerry O'Connor for taking the photos. In between our dinner and dessert we had a little raffle —

Photo: Steve having a 'moment'...

\$1 a ticket or 3 for \$2. A few committee members donated prizes and we kept drawing out tickets from a hat until all the prizes were gone. Out of the 36 members and three visitors we had a total of \$132.00 raised in the raffle which will go to improving club gear.

Later on in the evening we all gathered around the camp fire and were introduced to our guest speaker - our own local Gold Medal winning Para Olympian shooter Jason Maroney. You could hear a pin drop it was that quiet whilst Jason was telling us his story about his life and the adventures he had going overseas participating as a Para Olympian. After Jason had finished talking, 13 eager vehicles lined up to do a night drive through the back tracks of Eldorado and to play in some mud. After arriving back at camp we had more stories to tell around the campfire.

Photo: A great dinner with club veteran Neville French showing us all how to attack an obstacle (TV)...

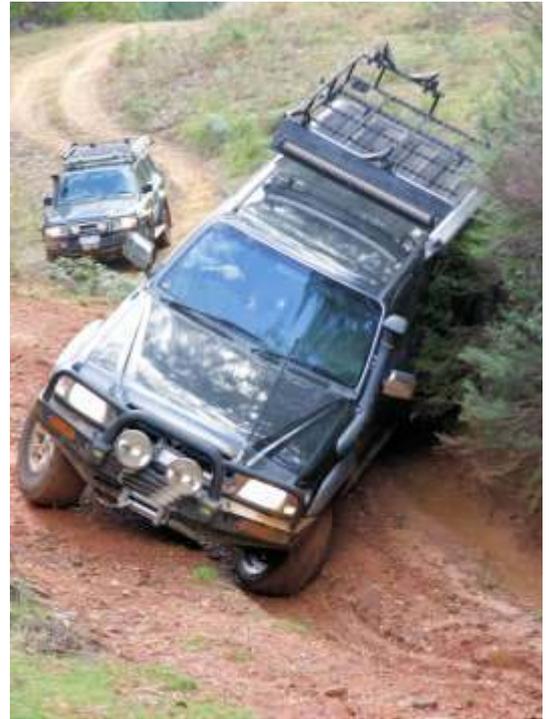


Photo: Traffic Jam in the playpen...

SUNDAY 31ST OF MAY

On Sunday morning we woke up to the smell of bacon and eggs and baked beans on toast served up again by none other than Graeme and Helene. They had done a magnificent job feeding all us members over the weekend, (some members often went back for seconds for all the meals it was that good) – not naming names.



Whilst a lot of the members packed up camp after breaky, seven vehicles lined up for the Sunday drive to tackle more tracks around the Carboor/Lake Buffalo area. As we got closer to the tracks the sky was getting darker. It was already wet around there and the tracks were challenging enough before the sky started to open up with more rain. One vehicle had come to grief with steering problems half way up a slippery track making the recovery more interesting but in the end it was a successful recovery. A bit of a mechanical repair was needed on the side of the track. We had managed to get the vehicle mobile again and back home safely along with the rest of the members.

Photo: After a few attempts, the hill won this time. Excellent driver skills safely returned this Navara to the track below...

Photo: The peace before the storm (right)...



I would like to say a big thank you to our own committee members in Graeme and Helene Martin from "ALPINE GOURMET GOODIES" for the catering on the weekend; to our President Tom Barnard and Tim Meek for leading the trips all weekend; to Peter and Kate Burke as well as Barry Burns for the firewood they supplied to keep us all warm around the camp fire; to Andrew Brown and Kerry O'Connor for the photos that were displayed Saturday night while eating dinner and Steve Fuller for helping set that up as well.

Photo: Graeme and Helene preparing a sumptuous meal...



Photo: Hot fire, warm feet...



Another big "thank you" to Jason Maroney for being our Birthday Bash guest speaker. We don't often get a chance to have a Para Olympian as a guest so, thanks again Jason.

Finally, to the committee members who donated a prize for the raffle and everyone else that helped and came to make this Birthday Bash Weekend a huge success.

Cheers,

Damo (trip co-ordinator)
9 June 2015

Photo: "Damo" hits the tuff stuff and wins...



Photo: Steve...you have to be joking! That's a Fine...



Photo below: Tuff but fun....

