

Camm's Top Place Trip – 18th to 20th January 2016-01-24

David Blore (Trip Leader), Bruce Gooday, Graham and Sue Abotomey, Barry Richardson, Tony and Jill Miller, Ian and Trish Barry

After meeting up at 9am Monday morning, in Myrtleford, we headed off to Dinner Plain where we had morning tea. All the shops were closed so we couldn't get a proper coffee fix.

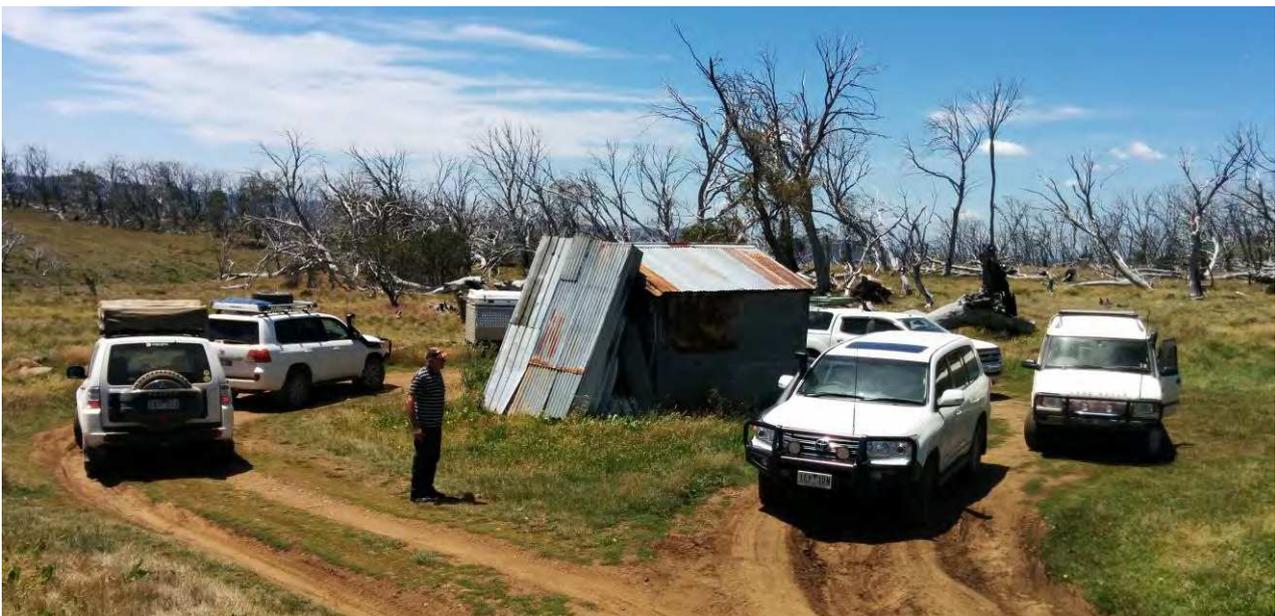
Headed down Dinner Plain Track, which isn't all that difficult but provides a pleasant drive through eucalypt forest. David was expecting news from home about a property settlement, so stopped to make some phone calls. The convoy continued on towards Birregun Road while David led from the rear.

Just off Berrigun Road is the "Dogs Grave", a memorial to all working dogs. We stopped here for lunch. A new hut, constructed by the Australian Deer hunters Association, is located at this site and would be a welcome relief in cold or wet weather.

After lunch we headed down Dane Track, passing two teams of DEWLP workers doing track-clearing work, before arriving at the Wentworth River. We crossed the river, with no difficulty. From here the track up to Camm's Top Hut became a bit overgrown so we waited while David did a recci. The track was blocked a short distance from the hut. No one was interested in viewing the dilapidated hut so we turned our thoughts to where we might camp the night. While there was a nice campsite at the river, we agreed that the fire risk was high and a quick exit was not readily available. We took the prudent decision to camp on the Dargo River north of Dargo. So we climbed up Murdering Spur Track to Birregun Road and motored on to Ollie's Jump-up Campsite.

Next morning we drove into Dargo for coffee. Here we discovered that the day had been declared a Total Fire Ban day – except for East Gippsland. We drove up the Dargo High Plains Road to the historic Grant township site. Ian's Patrol showed some signs of over-heating, which was a concern, but the temperature gauge returned quickly to normal as the gradient flattened out. The convoy motored down to Talbotville, minus Ian and Trish who decided to take a closer look around Grant. After lunch we regrouped at Grant and then drove up the Dargo High Plains Road to King Spur Track where we viewed Lankey Plain Hut before continuing down to Mayford (old town site) on the Upper Dargo River.

Photo: *Lankey Plain Hut*



Mayford provides wonderful camping opportunities and we selected a great site near to a swimming hole, which was put to great use. A black snake swam across the river just upstream of our group, which provided some excitement, though the snake took no notice of the swimmers. No campfire tonight, due to the Total Fire Ban, so we employed alternative meal preparation methods.

Over night it began raining softly. Mayford is not where you want to be if it rains, as the clay-based track becomes very slippery. Fortunately we only had enough rain to settle the dust, and the drive out was uneventful. Even Ian's Patrol behaved itself with no signs of overheating despite the long steep climb.

We drove out to the Blue Rag Trig point. The rock ledges have been graded out so, at the moment, it is a straightforward climb. As the weather had closed in we didn't have the greatest of views and it began raining as we prepared morning tea. From here we drove down to Harrierville for coffee and an early pie for lunch for some.

A relaxing mid-week trip. Thank you again to David for organising this trip.

Ian Barry

Kate's Corner

Kate has been busy again sending out articles to the newspapers. From the Wangaratta Chronicle...



Club to the rescue of Top Crossing Hut

By KATE BURKE

TOP Crossing Hut, nestled in the Alpine National Park south of Whitfield, was renovated over the weekend of January 16 and 17 after some parts of it were destroyed by vandalism.

Several members, new and old, from Wangaratta Four Wheel

Drive Club, alongside a member from Parks Victoria attended a working bee to repair and replace wooden beams, iron cladding, replace and cement some rocks from the fireplace and strengthen the door before the hut received a fresh coat of paint.

The club is part of the Adopt

a Hut Program and work with Parks Victoria to look after Top Crossing Hut and Lake Cobbler Hut.

At the end of the working bee on Sunday, members ended the weekend with a drive to the iconic Craig's Hut which was the setting for the famous movie, The Man from Snowy River.

RENOVATION RESCUE: Members of the Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club (left) repaired the Top Crossing Hut near Whitfield after it was damaged by vandalism recently.