

# Trip Reports:

## Pre Easter Trip around Lake William Hovell Area:

What a fantastic day with perfect weather, the sky was a deep blue with no clouds in sight to start off the pre Easter trip to the Lake William Hovell area.

We had 9 vehicles in total, 8 vehicles met at Apco service station at around 830am, they were Val Hill in the silver Nissan Navara, John Haring in his Nissan Patrol, Nev and Monica French for their first adventure in their latest Hilux, Tim Meek in his Pajero (that's a fine in itself lol) Kerry, myself and lil' Tom in the Mighty 80 series Landcruiser as Trip Leaders, Tom Barnard and Dave Ashford as Tail-end Charlie in Dave's International Scout, with a couple of non members in the middle. Dee Brown in the Nissan Patrol (well done Dee for being on time for once) and Brendon and Leesa Davis, in their Nissan Navara.

Just after 9am, we lined up in convoy and headed on our journey toward the Lake William Hovel area. When we reached Whitfeild, we made a quick stop so Tom and I could check in and speak with Chris Clarke, the ranger from Parks Victoria (more about that later in this report).

We headed off again until we found our destination, the Long Spur track. I asked Dee to lead the rest of the convoy down the track till they got to the first river crossing to let their tyres down, whilst I had to meet up with our 9th vehicle with member Richard Heeps at the wheel of another Pajero waiting for me at the Lake William Hovell spillway. Five minutes later we joined up with the rest of the convoy.



Photos: *Water crossings are fun*

After airing down and preparing for the fun to start, we crossed our first river crossing on Long Spur Track, and headed for the hills, where amongst the trees, we could see a glimpse of Lake William Hovell below to the right of us.



Further along, we found our next exit onto Sandy Flat Track, which was a good challenge for Val and the potential new members in Brendon and Leesa tackling the steep descents with a couple of switchback corners thrown in the mix as well.

When we came to the end of Sandy Flat Track, it brought us out to Sandy Flat camp area, where our second river crossing was, which each of us got out and checked the depth of the crossing before we continued to cross the river.



Once we all had cross the river, I announced that we would be taking a left hand turn to head up to Top Crossing Hut (which was a surprise detour on our journey)

Photo: *Chris Clarke chatting to the group...(in the Akubra)*

When we made it to Top Crossing Hut, Chris Clarke the Ranger from Parks Victoria met up with us 15 minutes later, we gathered around Chris whilst we had lunch and had a conversation about the history of the hut, some by-laws of the national park and other information, we then went on and inspected the hut to do our report with Chris and take photos and negotiate on what needs to be done about bringing the hut up to a better condition than it is now.

Before we headed off and parted ways with Chris, Tom thanked Chris for meeting up with us and taking time out of his own holiday leave.



Before we hit the tracks again, Richard had asked what Tomahawk Hut was like whilst reading his map. I said we were heading up that way, up Buckland spur track and turning to go down Evans creek track, it is about 5 minutes further along up Buckland Spur track if he wanted to have a look at it, which Val and the non members also said they would be

interested in having a look at another hut as well, so we extended the trip that little bit further to have a look at Tomahawk hut as well. When we got there, it was good to stop and check out the hut and have a chat amongst ourselves before we started the last bit of our journey down Evans Creek Track back towards Lake William Hovell.

As we turned onto Evans Creek Track we found the track in some places had a few rutted sections and one little boghole with a few chicken tracks around it, mostly everyone went around it apart from a few of us that wanted a challenge to try it and get through it. On our departure further down the track we past a little hut known as Evans hut, which didn't look like a bad place to camp before we made our way back to Lake William Hovell boat ramp area to inflate our tyres and say our goodbyes about 5pm.



Kerry and myself would like to thank everyone that attended our pre Easter trip around the Lake William Hovell area, we would also like to thank Tom Barnard (the President of the Wangaratta 4wd Club) and Dave Ashford in the Scout for being our tail-end Charlie. It was good to see Dave and the Scout out on the tracks again, and also Chris Clarke from Parks Victoria. Hope to see you all on the tracks again soon.

Damo

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