

MITCHELL FLAT WEEKEND

After a phone call to Parks it appeared our trip to the Jamieson area was in threat of being cancelled with a controlled fuel reduction burn approaching the Slate Mine which included a couple of track closures to the north. Fortunately the wind direction was near perfect so as it turned out we barely had a puff of smoke for the entire weekend.

Starting on the Stony Creek Track we followed the ridge across to the Slate mine, nothing too hard in the dry but the steep clay surface would certainly have been a challenge in the wet.



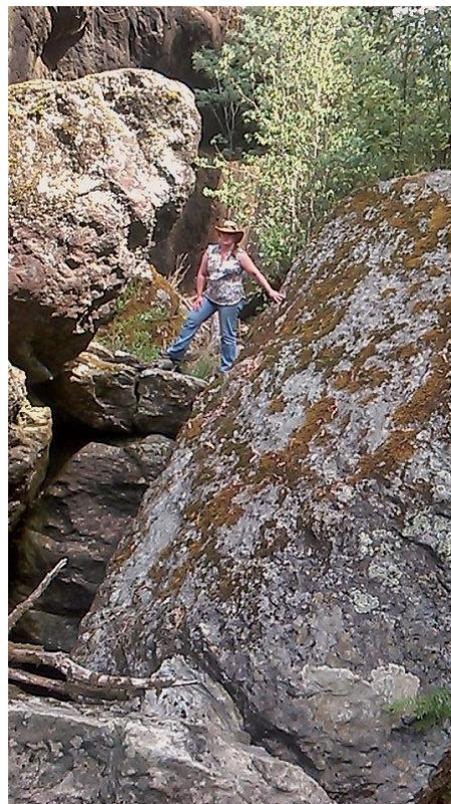
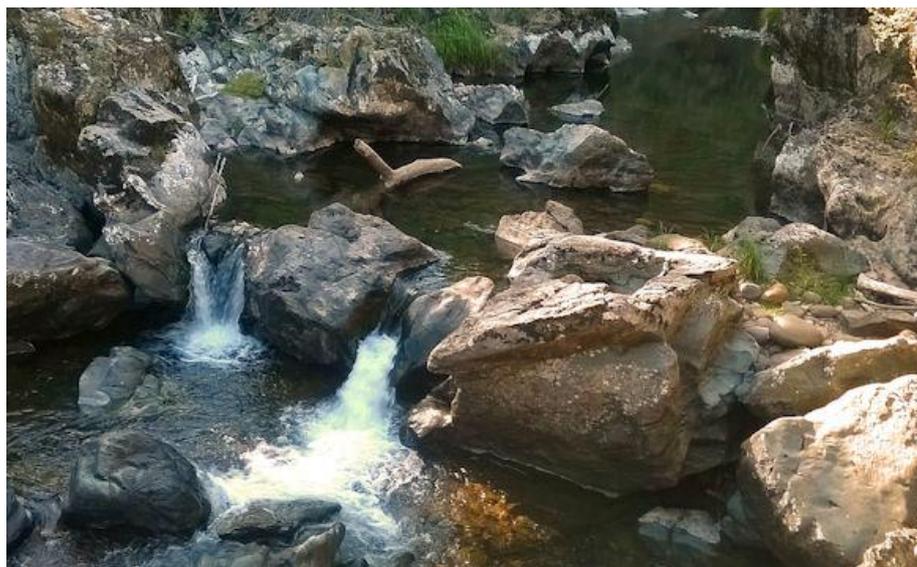
Photo: Crew parked up at the Slate Mine

We dropped down to Mitchell's Flat, a 1000 acre clearing first settled in the 1860's by gold prospectors then taken over for agriculture. Nothing remains of the buildings burnt down as recent as 1989 but the scramble into the hidden gorge was a highlight.

Photo: Fiona exploring Mitchell's Gorge

Over to Wrens Flat we found a secluded camp site on the Jamieson River which produced a couple of nice trout. All kicked backed around the fire for the evening with the camp ovens getting a workout culminating in hot scones for supper.

Photo: Twin Falls on the Jamieson River



Next morning while the last of the camp was being packed up, the girls decided to walk out ahead & arranged that we'd pick them up on the way. What could possibly go wrong I hear you say? Well they took the wrong road didn't they then the hand held UHF wouldn't work so after a bit of searching we finally got back on track.

Stopping at the 'River Inn', we did a little bush bash hike through the scrub to find the Jamieson River's version of Twin Falls, another rarely seen hidden gem of the Vic High Country & certainly one of Victoria's most picturesque waterways.

Photo: *Steam engine @ quicksilver mine*



We continued up the Silvermine track then looped back down to the bridle trail via Axe Track for our walk into Cinnabar Hut. At the turn of the century Mercury was found here & despite several attempts to reopen the mine over the next 50 years it was never really successful, still the stone work & remnants of old machinery remain today, testament to the pioneers fortitude.

Climbing back up to the Skene road we dropped down to Jamieson, the trip concluding in Mansfield with the obligatory coffee shop stop for the girls.

Craig Cheetham

Photo: Full version of Robbo climbing Stoney Creek track

