



All Wheel Drive Club Victoria

Murrindindi Camping Weekend a.k.a. Murrindindi Day Trip - Trip Report

Location: Murrindindi

Date: 21/04/2007

Standard: Easy - Moderate

Trip Leader: Geoff Lines

Participants:

Geoff Lines - Ford Escape, Andrew Ruigrok - Honda CRV, Evan Davidson - Holden Jackaroo, Ray Windmill - Toyota Prado, Bill Anthony - Nissan Xtrail, Greg Ready - Ford Territory, James White - Toyota Hilux

Saturday 21st April 2007

The trip started with the drive from Melbourne to Healesville where everyone stocked up with extra Saturday morning munchies and overnight treats. Taking off about 10:30am we headed towards Toolangi on Myers Creek Rd and turned off the main road on to Monda Rd. With a quick stop to adjust tyre pressures we reached the Black Range road about 20 minutes in and started to climb slowly up hill. This track is easy and everyone zipped along nicely.



Reaching Siberia track we crossed Siberia Bridge and then headed towards Woodmore Range Track. This track offers good easy-medium challenge with loose dirt, mud, rocks and fallen trees to contend with.

With the convoy strung out it was slow going through a range of challenges with everyone getting through ok. Many rocks were moved and there seemed to have been recent rain which added a the occasional mud puddle to splash in.

Greg Ready in his territory seemed to have the lowest vehicle on the convoy but he managed to negotiate through the track without any incidents.

After Woodmore track it's on to Kalatha rd which provided a nice scenic drive with a few mud puddles thrown in for some more dirty work. Getting down to Murrindindi Rd we then traveled about 1 km to the Murrindindi cascades picnic ground for lunch.



Stopping for lunch the clouds were gathering so everyone wrapped up well and sat down to a hearty lunch in the cold air.

After lunch it was a trip down to see the cascades. The walk is rated as easy but with the track getting wet and a very light drizzle starting sure footed stepping was required. It's about 300 meters down to the huge boulders where the kids rock hopped and parents worried for about 20 minutes. After that it was back up to the cars for the next stage of the trip.

We then took a slight side trip to find the old Murrindindi Sawmill, or what's left of it. After finding the sawmill site all the cars managed to pull into a camping area where very little is left to see. So it was back to the tracks.

Heading back to Kalatha Rd we headed up to find Aeroplane track. On entering Kalatha Track we discovered that the road was blocked by tape and a sign indicated that a car rally was starting at 5:00pm that night. As it was only about 2.30pm we headed on to Kalatha Rd to find the track.



With our own GPS showing tracks, but no names and Bill and Lorraine running a tracking system NASA would be proud of we still managed to get the wrong track. Thinking we were at Aeroplane track we turned and started along track. Stopping a couple of times we eventually discovered we were actually on Kalatha North Rd, which is definitely not a road. It provided some minor challenges but is rated as easy, when dry.



At this stage the drizzle was trying to turn into rain and the track was getting nice and wet.

Finding the odd mud puddle became interesting as the holes in the track from previous 4WD's were quite deep. So it was AWD's to the left and 4WD's anywhere they wanted. Thus James (Hilux) and Evan (Jackaroo) just plowed through anything that looked slightly intimidating to the rest of us



By the time we got to Marginal rd the weather was also becoming marginal. Low cloud was creeping in, smoke from some back burning could be smelt and the rain was trying to get established. From Marginal rd we headed down to the suspension bridge camping area to look for a camp site.

Once there it was decided that with the combination of rally cars blasting through the forest during the night, rain and the smell of smoke around that the overnight camp was cancelled.

The convoy huddled under a picnic shelter for some afternoon tea while the rain started to come down. After discussing our options we decided to head to the Cheviot Railway tunnel for a look around and then head home. See if you can spot the drowned rats beside the Escape.

By the time we got to the tunnel the rain had settled in and there were no longer any thoughts of “oh dear, what a shame, we can’t camp”.

After the drive through the tunnel it was off to the Yea pub where we had a great dinner and a well earned beer. And it was lovely and warm as well.

With lots of tracks in Murrindindi to explore an overnight camp still awaits us come summertime.

Report by Geoff Lines

