

June Long weekend Mid Western Gettaway

Trip Leader : Robert and Elizabeth Burns (Defender) with house (big shed)

Attendees:

Irene and Pebbles (Patrol) sleeping in style in the Burns shed / house

Brett and Kay McMahon (Defender) with camper trailer

Ron, Jenni and Toby Mason (Patrol) with camper trailer

Bruce and Trisha Gendle (Troopie) with camper trailer

Carl and Colleen Bleazard (Landcruiser) with tent

The brave and adventurous took the road and battled their way through accidents, strong winds, rain and fallen trees to meet at the Mudgee information bay in Mudgee on Saturday morning. After swapping war stories of our trip down from Sydney and getting updated on road closures around Mudgee we set off to Burns property "Upson Downs".

"Upson Downs" is located about 50kms out of Mudgee. The drive showed the result of 4 days solid rain with overflowing dams, newly created dams on the side of the road, causeways with water in them for the first time in a few years and much happier looking sheep, cattle and trees.

Our first event was pulling us (the Mason's) out of Robert and Elizabeth's driveway which was really a big mud slush. Carl and Colleen started the process but nearly got bogged themselves (I guess a Landcruiser is just not big and tough enough to get a Patrol with trailer out). We were rescued by the Burns defender in the end.



After setting up camp we set out for a drive around the local area on some tracks Robert and Elizabeth have been discovering since buying their property. After stopping a few times to walk to good vantage spots to take in the great views down the valley and see some of the interesting rock formations that dot the landscape it was back to the property for the all important happy hour and watch the sunset. Some enjoying happy hour for longer than an hour and were very happy by the end of the evening



Although there were reports of the road being closed we headed out Sunday morning to Gulgong, a historic gold mining town. There was meant to be a festival on in Gulgong this weekend but due to the poor weather and the road was closed on Saturday it was cancelled. Once arriving in Gulgong we all went our separate ways for a wander / drive around town before meeting again around 3pm for the drive back to stock up for the fire ready for the campfire ovens. A great night around the campfire drinking wine (once again some drinking more than others)

Monday morning those of us that were departing started packing up while watching Pebbles and Robert move a shed from the back of the property to next to their house – a very delicate operation with instructions and participation by all the men, (except Bruce who just ignored the call – what

were you doing in that camper Bruce???) - even Toby was trying to help. With the shed moved and some of us packed we started to depart.

It was great to see an area that had not had decent rain for so long, looking fresh and green. The local wildlife of kangaroos, wombats and rabbits were out in force enjoying the new food the rain always brings.

Those who were scheduled to come but piked out due to the weather, you missed a great weekend and we didn't get any rain at all after we met on Saturday morning. Where was your sense of adventure???

Thanks to Elizabeth and Robert for sharing their property (their pride and joy I think) with us and for allowing us to camp. Thanks also to Taffy their dog for keeping Toby amused all weekend.



The view from where most of us were camped down to Rob and Elizabeth's shed



Toby and his friend for the weekend Taffy