

Watagans Exploration Weekend 29th Sept – 1st Oct 2007

Participants:

Chris and Mary Keys. (trip leader) - Patrol
Jack and Pam Simpson - Pajero
Werner and Jutta Giggenbach - Landruiser
Paul and Wendy Budd- - Patrol
Dennis and Anne Tootil - Jeep
Ron, Jenni and Toby Mason - Patrol
Craig, Christine, Callum
and Braden Wallace - Prado
Glen and Mitchell Evans - Patrol
Carl and Colleen Bleazard (reporter) - Landcruiser

Day 1 Saturday

Apart from the early campers who avoided writing the written report by pitching up the night before, Dennis & Anne, Craig & Christine and twins, Glen & Mitchell and us met Chris at the Caltex service station on the freeway at 9am to be escorted into the Watagans National Park for a very promising weekend.

It was a seriously dusty drive in, with windows up, head lights bright and face masks on (well I had seriously thought of getting one for the future).

On arrival at camp we noticed a very cosy camping community with firewood stacked in prep for the evening and a welcoming kiss, hug or handshake from the rest of the gang. (No dancing fair maidens or blowing of trumpets)



It was about 11am after we had all made nests for the weekend and formed a convoy of 8 vehicles for the days drive.

We checked out a couple of campsites out for future and after a few more dust particles in up the nose, we discovered that air conditioning was a good idea and headed off to see some amazing views of the central coast where we had lunch.

So far we had an easy drive and then decided to do some more exploring to the land of Knox. I was sure a creation of Dr Seuss and his beautiful grass trees, which until now I thought were fictitious! What a glorious day it was!



Well after a few shuffling of vehicles we headed back to camp for some yummy food, light entertainment of campfire singing and a relatively early night.

Day 2 Sunday

Next day we left at 10am for some serious exploring. This was a fun day, what 4x4ing is about. After trying a couple of tracks of more reversing and shuffling of wagons, we found a great little track and we all ascended with only a few scratches. (most of which can be waxed off, but having the oldest Toyota, I don't think we'll bother.

Now here came the fun part, once at the top we all had to wait until those at the front of the line went for a long walk to make sure that the follow bit of track was all do able. then one by one we descend with a finale of a tight muddy bend, on one side a rock on the other a ditch and yes the rock was kissed by a couple of excited 4x4s. But wait, it's not finished, can we get out? Yep, after and few hundred yards and a small rebuilding of the road, we were "home and dry" and had lunch. After 3 and a half hours on the track we had only manage to go a stones throw away from camp.

Bellies replenished, we did some easy exploring, visiting the basin campsite next to a beautiful stream and spinning up more dust and stuff. After a while we found ourselves on proper road and thought we'd head back through a short cut of a track, but it was no go, a sign saying no entry, even though we didn't believe it (being someone's idea of stopping traffic) We headed back the easy way. good job too as in the long run it probably was quicker and we had a puncture.



Getting back to the camp for 5.30pm, fire was lit, food was being cooked and Carl was changing the tyre. The wind was up so avoiding smoke from the flames was fun. So after a very contented but tiring day, it was an early night as the wind continued rustling the trees in bright moon light.

So we departed the next morning and went our separate ways. Craig, Christeen, the twins and us decided to head home via the Yengo National Park Finchly Track then Putty Road. Yes that looked like a good trail for the future. See you next time!!!!

Colleen Bleazard