

The Non-Mt Airlie trip report: Sunday 4th May 2008

Trippers: Ian, Luisa, Leya and Jordan Reid – Prado Roger and Jill Sheath
– Patrol

Authors: Roger and Jill Sheath

It had been a long time between trips for Roger and I so we were up with the lark and at Lithgow Maccas at 8.45am – the Reids were already there. We set off in glorious sunshine around 9.30 and turned off the Mudgee Road and aired down. Good thing too as the road got hairier and hairier the further up the Mt Airlie road we went.

After negotiating several very rocky areas and tight bends, the Prado came to a halt and Ian's voice was heard: "Er, we have a tree across the track which we can move but I think there may be a problem with the wash away a bit further up". Ian very thoughtfully took a photo of Roger up to his armpits in a rather deep rut and it was decided that this was NOT the way to go. After reversing down the narrow hill track and finding a spot to turn around we continued back the way we had come.

We took an interesting looking track which, according to the GPS followed a creek. The track went up and up and because Leya and Jordan were passing out from food deprivation, we decided to stop for a quick coffee and a bite to eat. Ian found a small clearing which contained the remains of an old home of sorts



and the obligatory group photo was taken. There were 1-2 ruins of old cottages/huts, one of which still had old whisky bottles made from the old thick glass used last century.

A little further along we came upon a rock step and after several attempts to climb this, we did a bit of backfilling and finally managed to overcome the problem – Roger and Ian both passed the

winching exam with flying colours!! (Please note Shrek!!!). Progress was slow along a narrow track and there was an occasional tricky creek crossing to navigate, so much so we decided to find a clearing where we could have a break for lunch. The middle of the track appeared to be suitable. After lunch we continued along the track, only to find that it

stopped..... the GPS indicated another track approx 700 metres ahead. The "other" happened to be on the valley floor about 300 metres down a sheer drop. The views from the top were absolutely stunning and well worth any damage that MAY have been incurred during the arrival process. The trip back was very uneventful, we were obviously aware of the washaways and rock steps which we took in our stride (much easier downhill). The outing took a little longer than was anticipated due to the impassable first track but we had a really fun day out.

Many thanks Ian; we WILL get to Abercrombie with you all soon we hope!



