

Caves to Caves/Camping at Dingo Dell
28-29 March 2009

Attendees

Roger & Jill – Patrol TRIP LEADERS

Kim, Glen and family – Hilux

Ian & Rhonda – Rodeo

Ian & Jill – Rodeo

Jack & Pam – Pajero

Carl & Colleen – Landcruiser

Ben & family – Patrol

Michael – Hilux

Nathan & family – Landcruiser

Saturday

After a nice 9am meeting we had a quick briefing and headed off for the first part of the track. We went into Jenolan State forest and came across some signs to say the road is closed due to logging. We took an alternate track around the logging area. The track was not very rough, the scenery was beautiful, weather perfect...and then the track came to an abrupt end! Oh well, perfect opportunity for morning tea. Back out to the road and we headed to Jenolan caves. We stopped for a wee break and all got back into our cars. We all started except for Michael. The starter motor decided to be difficult. We gathered all the man power we had and gave the ute and trailer a push. No problems for our powerful men! All moving. We went to Kanagra Wall NP for lunch. Most of the group went for a walk. When they got back we started off again – except for Michael. It took 8 guys to fix one wire (imagine how many it would take to change a light bulb? I would hate to think!) Nevertheless, job done. We travelled into Kowmung Wild River area after Kim had to go to the loo (flashing her very cute bottom to the lucky people behind her!). Through a couple of creek crossing and Glen called over the radio that his car was overheating. When he popped the bonnet that when we all went 'oh crap' The fan had let go putting who knows how many holes in the radiator. Not good. At least it wasn't the transmission as originally thought. We filled the radiator up and they made it a couple of hundred metres up the track before it overheated again. Ian McKinley towed the grief stricken Hilux the rest of the way to camp. We had to camp outside the actual camping area because the key wouldn't work. No amount of WD40 would budge the padlock. Camp was soon set and timber collected. Back to the Hilux. Pepper in the radiator apparently helps (I don't know, I'm just a girl) but that's what they did. We were all around the camp fire with the usual laughs. Kim excelled herself on this trip. The kids had more food than they could poke a stick at. It is a shame she forgot cups, bowls, chairs, matches to light the stove to cook the food, Monicas pyjamas! Things can only improve from here! As it was Monica's birthday on Sunday we decided cake would be good early. We all sang happy birthday and shared in chocolate cake. Thank you Monica! One by one people started going to bed. The last left was Colleen and Glen. Carl summoned Colleen to be as he thought that Glen and her singing sounded a bit like animal noises.

Sunday

We headed off in the morning. Ian towed the Coddingtons again up and out of the forest. We decided to see if Glen could go it on his own for a while. With a bit of speed the cool air kept the temperature gauge down. We had to stop as there was some confusion as to which way to go. It gave the guys a chance to top up the radiator again. With still some 30kms to Wombeyan caves the Hilux overheated again. Roger and Jill had a go towing this time. The dust was really thick and Kim, Glen, Amanda and Monica got to eat dirt – very crunchy. We made it to Wombeyan camp area where Glen filled his container up with water for any emergencies that may arise. We stopped for lunch, had a group photo taken and all got ice creams. Roger and Jill towed Glen up the big hill to flat

ground. They unhooked the snatch strap and went again unassisted. I am guessing the pepper in the radiator did the trick! We all aired up and said our goodbyes before heading home. Ian and Jill followed Kim and Glen most of the way home. The Hilux made the trip home under its own steam (get it??!!!) Unbreakable (or at least repairable)

Kim