

Quart Pot RV Park – 3-5 July 09

Craig, Christine, Callum and Braydon Wallace – Toyota Prado (Trip Leader)
Glen & Kim Coddington – Toyota Hilux

Friday 3 July

The meeting time was 9am at the information centre at Nowra. As usual the Coddingtons were late.

As it was only the 2 Toyotas on the trip we headed off straight away. No need to muck around. We fuelled up at Batemans Bay before turning off the main road and onto the dirt with camper trailers in tow. We arrived at Quart Pot RV Park where we set up camp. After Craig and Glen worked out exactly where they were going to set up (they only had how many hundreds of acres to pick from) it was decided we would be close neighbours. The rivalry started immediately with Craig parking outside his designated zone forcing Kim and Glen to set up on uneven ground. Glen and Kim were setting up their camper for the first time and did so pretty well (if I must say)

We sat down for lunch and started talking about the weekend ahead. Glen was unable to tell the difference between Callum and Braydon so he named them Bill and Ben. They in turn named him Bob (which turned out very fitting – can he fix it??). We gathered the firewood and got a roaring fire going as it was starting to get chilly. Christine tried to convince Craig to cook on the coals but couldn't. Princess Craig needed his heat beads! His dinner still turned out pretty good despite the fakeness. Kim did potatoes and pumpkin in the fire and actually ate them for once. Evil Kimmy made a presence and decided that murder in the dark would be good fun. Bill, Ben and Bob were armed and dangerous. Probably lucky that the boys got tired and went to bed. We all settled down around the fire and went to bed soon after, but not before being told 'we are leaving at 9am sharp' by our time keeping trip leader.

Saturday 4 July

Bill and Ben were up before the sun so the rest of the camp was too. It was very cold. Christine went and had a hot shower and the men fussed around their cars getting ready for a big day out. Breakfast had we all sat down for a gasbag about the day ahead and departed camp at 9.13am – WE WERE LATE!

We headed down Quart Pot Rd, but not before grabbing the chainsaw as the winds had been very strong through the week. There was a lot of debris on the track. Christing got the job of stick girl although some required the guys to help with. We went along Gollarabee Fire Trail. Stick girl was doing a great job until we came upon a huge mess across the track. It was all hands on deck for this one. We cleared the track without too much drama and headed on down the hill. Glen was half way down moving logs so Kim jumped behind the wheel to go and pick him up. We went up Switchback track which was very loose and steep. We made the top without any trouble and came across some big trees across the track. Out came the chainsaw as these were way too big for stick girl to move.

We were headed back to the cars when Glen spotted something all too familiar. Yep you guessed it, water coming from the bottom of his car. He checked under the

bonnet to find that his brand new radiator had not one but two holes in the core where his brand new thermo fan housing had rubbed through. It was then everyone realised the radiator “specialist” was in big trouble. Glen and Craig filled the radiator back up and we all headed back to camp. The guys went into Batemans Bay to get some very needed supplies while the girls stayed at camp for some R&R.

The fire was raging by the time the guys had got back. Christine and Kim had done a top job in getting the fire going. Poor Bob spent the afternoon trying some fancy smancy metal fixing stuff – that didn’t work, bars leak – still didn’t work, but the good old black pepper saved the day again! By this stage Glen was planning his origami attack on the radiator “specialist”!

Kim cooked veges in the fire for everyone while Christine convinced Craig to cook on the real coals. Princess Craig handed in his tiara and cooked on the coals.

Campovens finished and it was time for the marshmallows. Bill and Ben had waited very patiently for this moment. Once the kids were in bed it was time to stoke the fire. A funny noise was coming out of the fire and Christine thought there was an animal in one of the logs. We convinced her there must have been a possum stuck in there. Anyway Glen poked a stick in the log to prove it was all good, it didn’t help when he pretended to be attacked by the invisible animal!

We got the fire going to the size of a small horse and sat around talking before going to bed.

Sunday 5 July

For something different Bill and Ben were up first with their quietest voices on – NOT! It was time to get up anyway. Bob went and had a hot shower followed by Kim and then Craig. We all had breakfast before starting to pack up. It was at this stage that Craig disappeared to pay the camp fees. An hour and a half later he returned to finish packing up camp! Final check on the stupid radiator came back all good.

Seemed all the junk used finally clogged the holes!

We all headed off making sure the temperature was good and went down the very dusty track out to the main road. We stopped at Milton for a pie and headed home. Glen and Craig stopped at the top of Mt Ousley for one more check on the stupid radiator. No water was lost and the gauge was good. We said our goodbyes and headed home.

Thanks Craig for a well lead trip, sorry to dampen the trip (get it?? Water??) Can’t wait for the October trip. We will take a spare radiator just in case – who would have thought it would happen again! Did Bob fix it? Yes he did, Kim and Glen got home without a hitch. Pity the radiator “specialist” on Monday.