

St Albans Reccie – Sunday 14 June 2009

Ben, Gis, Connor, Zoe Sweetnam (Trip Leader)	-	Nissan Patrol
Ernie, Charmaine, Charl Anfield	-	Jeep Wrangler
Alan Willingale	-	Mitsubishi Pajero
Jack and Pam Simpson	-	Mitsubishi Pajero
Paul, Debbie, Emily, Daniel Dunnucks	-	Toyota Landcruiser
Michael, Elena, Hannah, Zach Zabsilero	-	Landrover Discovery
Ben, Bee, Breeanna, Bronte Clarkson	-	Ford Explorer
William Wong	-	Mitsubishi Pajero
Dave and Di Powell	-	Jeep Wrangler
Glen and Kim Coddington	-	Suzuki Sierra (to give the Nissan half a chance)
Russel and Rosalie Goubish	-	Mitsubishi Pajero

We all met at St Albans pub at 9am before airing down. There were a lot of new members there which was great to see.

We started toward Mogo camping area where we stopped for morning tea and a chin wag. From there we continued thru Yengo N.P. and stopped at Bucketty to look at the old sandstone wall built by the convicts and to take some photos. We all got back into our cars and headed down the road before turning off onto Yengo Rd and then onto Boree Track. Ben missed our turnoff even though it was clearly marked (must have had something to do with not enough time to look at the book because he left his at his office and had to go and borrow Chris' book on the Saturday – thank you Chris, we would have been truly stuffed!). The track was a bit dusty and bumpy with a few turns. Our tail end Charlie (aka Jack and Pam) did forget to let Ben know when we had all turned. Thankfully Ben was on the game (finally).

We made our way to an aboriginal site to check out some paintings. After scaling what felt like Mt Everest we made the top with all the kids and found 2 paintings! The view however was spectacular.

By this time it was about 1pm. Glen asked Ben what time we were planning on heading back to the Tavern for lunch as we were all starting to get a bit hungry. The reply from Ben was 'the pub keeps cooking till 5pm'. Glen and Kim had been set up (or so it seemed). Since when is there 2 morning tea breaks on a trip, the second one being at lunch?? Thank you all for your kind food and drink donations – again!

We soon finished our second morning tea and got back into the vehicles to head towards Finchley Camping Area then onto some more aboriginal paintings.

The Fairweathers were doing a good job at keeping the dark sky at bay. A few drops fell but apparently Pam ordered them to keep the dust down. The time is now 2.43pm. Still no lunch. Moving along, many of us calling for beer o'clock, but first Finchley Trig and lookout. Many of the malnourished folk

made their way up the hill. We did group photos at the trig. Ben's camera took ages to set up the timer (must have been a Nissan) as did Alan's camera (must have been a Mitsubishi). Ernie's camera however had a remote control – very snazzy (must have been the selling point in buying a Jeep!)

Jack and Pam decided to head home from there to see some family. We left the Finchley Trig at 3.13pm (still no lunch), apparently to head to the pub. We were all a little sceptical about this news.

3.45pm FINALLY! We made the pub and dragged our weary bodies to the bistro to order lunch. A steak sandwich and plate of chips took about 30mins to cook. Luckily the food was excellent and the servings huge! After a beer we went back to the car park to air up and head home.

Everyone enjoyed the trip. It was great to see such a good turn out and so many new faces. We hope to see everyone again soon and thank you Ben for a great day.

Kim Coddington