

Sunny Corner/Turon – March 13-15 2009

Ron, Jenni, Toby Mason – Mazda TRIP LEADERS

Glen, Kim, Amanda, Monica Coddington – Hilux

Glenn & Mitchell Evans – Patrol

Craig, Christine and family – Prado

Paul & Wendy – Patrol

Paul, Debbie and family – Patrol

Doug & Sylvia – Pajero

Carl & Colleen – Landcruiser

Friday

We all met at the Shell service station at Lithgow. Most of us got breakfast and coffees before we got together to discuss the trip. As usual the weather was a bit cooler up there. We set off at 8am after Glen lost some more weight out of his van (but it will make a great jacking plate). We hit the dirt and pulled over to air down. We were about 3 minutes into the track when we were stopped by a couple of fallen trees. Ron got his chainsaw out and after a lot of cutting, heaving and hoeing by all the crew the track was finally clear enough for us to get the cars and vans through. The rain was slowly getting heavier and looked like it was going to hang around for the morning. Back on track when Ron called over the radio that he had a flat tyre (typical Friday 13<sup>th</sup>!). The time had now hit 10am and all the action had put us behind schedule a bit so off we went dodging kangaroos along the way. We stopped at a lookout for lunch. It was still raining although it had eased off a bit. The awnings came out and everyone gathered around for lunch and a chin wag. So far we were all having a blast. The kids loved playing in the rain and mud. A few stacks and tears but smiles all round. We headed back onto the track at 12ish. We made the camp site where Ron fixed his flat tyre. Ron, Craig, Doug and Paul went and did a timber run. Not to be outdone Glen and Glenn went and got some timber and came back with a good load.

Kim forgot meat for dinner so into Sofala they went only to find the general store closed. Luckily the owners of the store were sitting out the front drinking so they kindly opened back up to get some food. \$17.50 for a \$9 woolworths bbq pack! Bargain. 3 steaks and 4 people.....Jenni kindly donated some chicken to the feed the Coddingtons kids cause! (thank you) The camp fire was started and everyone was having a great time socialising. Dinner was finally eaten and bums on seats around the fire. One by one the numbers started dwindling. Time for bed.

Saturday

Up nice and early for a 9am start. A quick briefing on the days plan and then into the vehicles. Some of us fuelled up at Capertee then we all headed into Turon NP. We stopped to check out some mine shafts. From there we went to Jackass Hill. It was decided that we would leave it for another day. There was a lot of friendly banter on the radio about different makes of cars and we took another track around Jackass Hill. On the way Glen got stung by a bee. Although he was in pain the Coddington motto came across the radio "no blood no sympathy"! We all stopped for lunch and Ron came to the rescue with some stingoes spray before we decided to get moving as the sky was getting darker and the temp had dropped. Rain was coming. News just through – we have got to go back the same way we came in as we had taken a wrong turn. Oh well, it just adds to the adventure. We started back when screams

came across the radio from the Hilux. Kim thought she was being attacked by a monster bug. Turned out it was just a grasshopper!

The rain started again. Actually in bucketed down. The tracks became streams and the dry creek crossing got rather full quickly. After a section of track where careful wheel placement was essential we came to another crossing but this one was a bit rutted out. With guidance from people we all got through safe and sound. Ron even managed to keep all of his toes (pew!) The rain had stopped but the thunder continued. As most of the cars started down the next hill another call for a flat tyre was heard. This time it was Carl and Colleen. Glen reversed the Hilux back up the hill to help and Doug and Sylvia returned also. Many hands make light work. We left the dirt and found a park to air up at and for Glen to secretly fill his washer bottle (repeat offender) before we headed back to camp. For something different – it soak the timber. Mitchell successfully broke the log splitter. It must have been his BEAMing muscles. Happy hour was going to happen regardless of the rain. Everyone came to the 'Angel Manor'. We watched our fire getting smaller and smaller. Kim and Glens camp over was starting to look grim. At this rate it was looking as though the girls would have to go looking for more food donations. The rain came, stopped, started, stopped but it certainly was not enough to dampen anyones spirits. Jenni and Ron stripped off for a shower, Colleen was having her own dance party, Mitchell was complaining about his bright orange shoes getting dirty, the guys were still trying to get the fire going and everyone was having a blast. The camp oven ended up cooking beautifully and Amanda and Monica finally got fed. We all sat around the camp fire, Colleen was singing and playing guitar and we all talked about how good the day had been.

Sunday

The weather was great. Blue sky, sun and plenty of smiles. More food donations for the girls. Glenn kindly donated butter for their breakfast. Glens turtle that he saved off the road yesterday had escaped overnight. The kids went to look for it but coldn't find it again. Lucky turtle!! We all got into the cars and headed to Hill End. Ron took us down a track for a look. At the end of the road we heard a siren. A local was walking down his driveway towards us with one crutch, a mega phone and one thong. We sent our fearless trip leader in first to talk to him. Turns out the tracks we were looking for were closed but he told of another track we could go down. He also said that next time we can go through his property. His wife couldn't believe how many people there were. She said she had never seen a crowd so big!! We went to some lookouts and then to the pub for lunch. Back to camp we went to pack up and end what was a great weekend. Thank you to Jenni and Ron for leading such a great trip.