

Yadborro Trip

Date of trip: 6th – 8th June (Queen's Birthday long weekend)

Start location: Nowra

End location: Yadborro Flat camping area

Sites visited:

- Milton's famous pie shop
- Yadborro Flat camping area
- Mogood lookout
- Shallow Crossing
- Quart Pot Farm Camping
- No Name Mountain fire trail

Participants

Craig & Christine Wallace & family (Trip Leaders) – Prado

Glen & Kim Coddington & family - Hilux

Jack & Pam Simpson - Pajero

Ben & Gisela Sweetnam & family - Patrol

Stan & Noelene - Defender

Michael Lynch - Hilux

Alan Willingale - Pajero

Sebastien Fox & family - Prado

Glenn Evans and son (Tail end Charlie) – Patrol

The plan was to meet up at the Nowra Information office at 08:00 on Saturday morning. To ensure our prompt arrival I had packed the car on Friday night and only needed to add the food to the esky and get the boys up. I thought we were making very good time so decided to stop off at MacDonald's for breakfast and a café latte. My estimate of time to go was out so we ended up arriving at ten past eight and in my absence was elected to trip reporter. I will get this timing thing right one day!

The plan was to drive to the Yadborro camping area via Milton which would give us a chance to stock up on any last minute supplies. There was talk that as Ron Mason was not on this trip we should expect good weather, which it was! It was a glorious sunny morning and the drive through the beautiful south coast country side to Milton was magnificent. From Milton we turned off the highway and headed inland towards Pigeon House Mountain. As we approached Pigeon House mountain the track became muddy and slippery from the recent rains.



As a number of the vehicles had trailers in tow it was decided that Craig, Glenn and myself would travel on ahead to checkout the track. Craig and Glen went first in the Patrol and I followed up behind hoping that my newly installed winch would be put to good use if called upon to rescue a bogged Patrol. No such luck and although the track was slippery in places there was only a couple of short inclines and declines to tackle so getting to the Yadborro Flat camping area would not be an issue for the camper trailers. However, it had been an issue for a very new looking Subaru

AWD which had slipped off the track and was stuck in the under growth. We checked for any persons with the vehicle but as no one was with it we drove on. We returned to the convoy and we all made it through to the camp site without any problems.



Probably due to the recent rain and track condition the Yadborro Flat camping area was empty when we arrived. It is a beautiful spot with plenty of grassy sites to choose from. There is clearly lots of Wombats in the area and finding a spot without Wombat poo near it was a problem. This is not really an issue for most people but with my three younger boys aged 9, 11 and 12 I knew that being anywhere near the stuff would invariably lead to poo on something. The camping area has a number of fire places and toilet facilities. Although the South Coast Forest Map states that water is available I couldn't find any tapes. The camp site is situated next to a small river so would be a particularly good spot for families with kids in the warmer months.



We setup camp and after lunch set out to visit the Mogood lookout. Although the track was still muddy and quite steep in places there was also a fair amount of grit and gravel on the track so no real problems with traction. Along the way we had good views over Pigeon House Mountain and surrounds. The track leading to the top of the Mogood lookout is very steep but as it is out in the open and not covered by the forest canopy it was dry so we did have not any problems attaining the summit. From the top you have un-restricted views in all directions, from the forested areas below changing to green pastures and beyond this the coastline and ocean in the distance. I have always liked the South Coast and to be there on a glorious and sunny day in the middle of winter makes it doubly good.



On the way back to camp we all stopped to gather fire wood and numerous methods of cartage were employed, including Stan's roof rack, Michael's boot and Glen's drag chain which was used to bring back an entire tree trunk. Back at camp everyone pitched in and Glen made short work of cutting it all up with his chain saw. I reckon we had nearly 2 cubic meters ready by the end of it.

I am fairly new to camping life so my setup and abilities are pretty basic. For our evening meal I was to cook the kids "toad in the hole" also know as "egg in nest". As you can see from the ingredients and recipe it's not hard.

1 egg
1 slice bread
butter

Butter bread on both sides. Cut a hole slightly larger than an egg yolk in the centre of the bread. Fry the bread until bottom is toasted. Turn bread over. Crack the egg and drop it in the hole. Fry until the bottom is toasted. Turn over and fry until egg is done. Fry hole cut-outs too!

Three or four servings later we settled down around the camp fire. There were some beautiful aromas wafting around and it is then that we noticed a number of camp ovens cooking away around the fire. This provided a good learning opportunity for me to see how other more seasoned campers manage in the bush. It had been a long day for me and the boys so we went to bed at around 20:30. Happy sounds could be heard from around the camp fire and I understand that the revelling went on well into the early hours.

Craig had planned out an extensive circuit for our Sunday outing and was keen to get an early start. Being that we had gone to bed early we were up and ready to go in good time. However as soon as I started driving a squealing noise could be heard coming from the rear wheel. I pulled over and with the assistance of just about everyone (Stan doing the actual work) we quickly had the rear wheel off. The culprit was found to be the spring clip that holds the rear disk pads down (I presume to stop than from clattering around) had bent upwards and was touching the inner side of the wheel rim. Craig bent the clip back and this fixed the problem. Ps. The job was well done as I subsequently had the breaks checked by Toyota and they could find nothing wrong with them.

As Jack and Pam had missed Saturday's visit to the Mogood lookout we took the opportunity to have a second visit. We again were lucky with the weather and it truly is a top spot on a clear sunny day. Next stop was Shallow Crossing on the upper reaches of the Clyde River, this we crossed over and then back again to give the vehicles a bit of clean as they had got quite muddy the day before. Although the water was only about a foot deep a few of the party went through at a fair pace causing quite a splash. I drove through fairly slowly much to the disappointment of the kids but I have heard too many stories of broken fan blades and damaged radiators to try going fast. From there we continued on down towards Nelligen following the Clyde river along the way. A quick pit stop at the small store in the village and another café latte; this is my sort of trip! Our next stop was at the Quart Pot 4WD camping area. This is a privately owned farm that operates a camp site and is in the process of setting up 4WD tracks on the property. Craig had arranged access with the owners so we stopped here for lunch. It's a nice spot set next to a river surrounded by farm land and forests. After lunch we headed off towards the No Name Mountain Trail. In parts this track has some very steep sections and had the Prado scabbling for traction on a couple of occasions. The recommended tyre pressure for a Prado 90 series is 28-30PSI, I was down to around 25PSI, but next time I do this track I will try 20-22PSI. We drove along the ridge at the top of Bolaro mountain and then headed back to camp. On the way back Glen's Hilux started over heating so a road side repair was required. It was great to see everyone helping out and Ben having the necessary spares with him and the problem in next to no time. More firewood was required so again a stop was arranged in the state forest and Glenn Evans got busy with his trusty chain saw. He did however forget his son in the woods but he wasn't really lost as he was with us and Jack and Pam who gave him a lift back to camp.



Another large fire was soon going and we gathered around the camp fire for supper. It had been a really great day and we had done so much that I was happy to have an early night. Next morning I was up at dawn and was in the process of lighting the camp fire when Pam dashed out of her tent in her pyjama's (that's seriously organised camping!) to warn me to be careful of snakes. She pointed to a spot next to the fire and there was a small/baby brown snake – it didn't look all that small to me and I reckon it would be 2 foot long if straightened out. Pam then went on to tell me about the events of the evening where after having chucked a hollow log onto the fire the snake had crawled out and died in the fire. So it had been an eventful night and reminder to all about wearing gloves and taking care when gathering fire wood.

The plan for Monday was to have a leisurely morning, pack up camp and have lunch at the Pie

shop in Milton. As I had only a couple of small tents and not much in the way of camping gear we decide to get an early start and head on back to Sydney. This decision had nothing to do with my craving for a good cup of coffee!

I would like to thank everyone for showing me around their camping setups, its really useful to see how experienced campers do it. Ben for providing the great pictures. And I know that we all thank Craig and Christine very, very much for arranging a really fabulous long weekend trip away. Cheers!