

Abercrombie

Cape Shakedown trip





We left late Saturday morning meeting at Hampton at 1pm, Lachlan and Alistair didn't come so it was the Bleazard's, Kynoch's and Sweetnam's left to prepare for the Cape. We drove through Oberon and down into Abercrombie arriving at our campsite at Silent Creek about 4pm and began setting up camp.

We had gathered some wood along the way in so camp was set, tarps raised to protect from the light rain and a fire started. Happy hours and dinner soon followed and the night was spent moving from the tarp to the fire and back again between the rain showers.

That night we got about 2" of rain, and unfortunately most of it ended up in our tent. For some reason the Black Wolf decided to leak and I woke up at 4am with puddles inside, wet sleeping bags, wet clothes and a wet wife and kids... Happy days for me!



Sunday the Sweetnam's were up early mopping up and trying to dry their things, thankfully it was nice and sunny so we hung everything out. Stan and Noelene lent us their Cobb to run in the tent for the day to help the drying process. Carl lent me a couple of tarps to put over the tent in case we got any more rain and after breakfasts and everything else, we were set for our day trip.

The plan for Sunday was a drive around the main track checking out a couple of other camp sites and a picnic lunch at the Licking Hole (nice name). Along the way we stopped and collected some more wood and loaded up for what was to be a cold night. The weather was beautiful Sun/Mon (because I had 200 tarps over my tent in preparation for more rain) so the rest of the weekend was bright and sunny.

We had a nice picnic lunch and a relax before deciding to take the short track back to camp for a lazy afternoon, happy hour and dinner. The kids went to bed early and the night spent by a beautiful relaxing fire.

Monday we were up early packing. The plan was to leave at 8am and drive down to Abercrombie caves for a 10.30 guided tour. Stan and I were up at 6am and

packing, doing breakfast and getting the car's sorted. Carl and Colleen were up at 7.50, flipped their tent over and had coffee while Stan and I raced to see who finished last. Finally Carl wondered over to help us finish off and we were off at 8.20 (Stan lost the race).

We had a nice drive down to the caves and made it just in time to get the last 4 spots on the tour, I stayed with the kids and took them on a self guided tour through the main cave, while Noelene, Gis, Colleen and Carl took the guided tour. Stan stayed with the car and had a nap in the sun (he doesn't like small spaces) – weird seeing he drives a defender???

After the tours finished, we checked out the camping at the caves for future possibilities and then headed off to a nearby waterfall for lunch. After that it was home time, so we started the long trek back to Sydney. We hit some traffic and with Carl about 5k's in front, Stan & I were guided through every backstreet in the mountains to bypass the main blockages. It was a great weekend and the caves were fantastic. Thanks to everyone for the trip – Cape should be something memorable...

