

Baal Bone Gap

Zig Zag Railway to Lost City
and eventually back to Lithgow.



If you like unusual and spectacular scenery then this is the drive to put on your wish list.

It's a comfortable one day drive over no worse than grade 3 trails. (Except for the bits we had to forego). Well we didn't get lost, (thanks to an experienced leader) It wasn't boiling hot, It wasn't freezing cold, It didn't even rain! . Really, way too civilised for a 4wd trip.

Maybe the scenery put me in state of euphoria because I'd forgotten that it was FREEZING cold, "Literally" As we drove up to Zig Zag along the Bells Line of Road the tar started to get a bit slippery from a thin ice covering. When you looked out across the tree tops in the valleys beside the road it looked as if it had snowed as there was a covering of ice over all the trees. At the Zig Zag station the rail lines were covered in ice. About 9 cars turned up and we stood around in the ice till about 9.45 when we started off after being briefed. As the sun broke through, the day became very pleasant but there were what appeared to be sheets of glass over and around the puddles. Not unheard of but quite unusual to see it on so many puddles in the road. Where cars had already gone

through, the sheets were snapped into sections of broken glass (or so it appeared)

The wombat holes added a bit of interest early on to get the day started. No not real wombat holes but a deeply rutted track with huge lumps and holes in for a bit of fun. Here there were the strangest feathery slivers of ice filling the little cracks in the road like miniature stalactites. Chris and Kelly in the canary jeep came up through the "Wombat Holes" in fine form and did a little rock carving to mark their success Mitchell enjoyed the climb so much he had to have a second go.

We wound our way up a ridge until we came upon the "Lost City." I had no idea what to expect and so was quite surprised to see the huge weathered rock formations like sky scrapers sticking up out of the valley. Stacks of them (no pun intended) They are a mix of sandstone with some iron stone layers which give the formations a layered effect which looks as though someone had created the huge protrusions by stacking blocks of stone on top of one another. From our high vantage point it really was quite a magnificent panorama. We continued on until we came to a gully that was quite wet and slippery after the rains with the gully floor consisting of a black mud well churned up by prior vehicles and motor bikes that had been through before us. All in all the day had been pretty uneventful..





... Well that had to change. Firstly Vled decided to get bogged in the slippery muck then Glenn thought he'd come to the rescue. He was thwarted when he tried to use a tree as a brake down the slippery slope and ended up a little skew whiff up against the tree. So out came the tow ropes and with lots of manly bluster and team work, Glen's vehicle was retrieved. In the mean time it seems Vled also got out of the bog. Rather than try to attempt the much steeper and muddier slope up the other side Chris found a way out through the gully that brought us back out on to a road in the direction we needed.

Again the scenery was interesting with dozens of white ant mounds to be seen in the bush beside the road.. We lunched at a clearing near the caves and took a walk to see the aboriginal paintings.

Afterwards we were taken to a beautiful lookout with a fantastic view over the lush green Wolgan Valley. Again some lovely scenery and quite opposite to the heath like vegetation at the "Lost City"

To top off the day we stopped in for a quick drink at the pub before we arrived in Lithgow and headed home.

Thanks Glenn
Taff Mac
(Kathy Reeves)

