

BAAL BONE AND LOST CITY



Lost City / Baal Bone Gap
Trip Leader Glenn Evans
Participants.
Headley Hall
Andrew, Linda & Liam Jackman
Yan & Tania Froberg
Noel Gover
Steve & Ryan Parkins
Nigal Ward & CJ Coughton
Mitchell Evans, Leesah Easton, Mathew Delforce



The day started off well with all ready and aired down by 9.15 as scheduled.

After a brief and a general discussion on what we hope to do for the day we headed off from Zig Zag to see if I could make it 2 out of 3 in finding the Lost City. The group decided to have a play and not stick to the main track to the Lost City and take some of the side tracks on the way. After doing the "Wombat Holes" we continued on through some mud and some of the powerlines track until we got to a rather steep and challenging part of the track. Tania was not too worried as she sat quietly knitting the whole time! We all got out and looked before anybody made a decision in trying the track. Some started to walk it but after 20 or so metres decided not to as they had standard height cars and it may have caused damage on some of the steps. Mitchell (of course) walked further and via the 2 way said he would have a go but recommended that the standard height cars should not attempt it as there were some quite serious wash outs further down the track.

I took the group back to the main track and told Mitchell who decided to take "the short cut" would meet us at the top at the cross intersection. As we drove Mitchell came across the radio.

"Hey dad, I have a situation"

ONE GAP

TY



"Is the car on 4 wheels still?"
"Yes but just."
"Ok we are on our way!"

Now those of you who have been in the club for a while know I will get revenge on Mitchell any chance I can and vice versa. The track had a slight lean to the left and the top soil had cracked to expose very slippery mud and the more Mitchell tried to drive right the car would lean left with the possible end result him sliding into a wash out about 2 feet deep. Not a good start to the trip. He stopped as soon as he realised he was in strife and secured the car.

Several of us walked down the steep and muddy track to see how we were to retrieve the car. We initially tried to winch the car right but that only made the car lean left more. Only 1 option. Winch straight up the track.

With my winch (30 metres) 2 extension straps (20 metres each) and a tree trunk protector we started the slow and long winch up the hill.

About 3/4 the way up Mitchell managed to get some traction and started to drive him self up only to get stuck in the slippery mud again so out came the winch again. Only took about 2 hours to get him up the 70 odd metres. Thanks to Nigel & CJ who managed to run up and down the hill taking the gear to the car! I did it once and that did me!!!

We all drove along the Lost City track which was full of mud and water after the recent rain but the ground was firm and no issues were expected.

I found it! That makes it 2 out of 3 times I have done this trip I have found the Lost City. The scenery was as usual specular and for the people who have not been there before the sight was breath taking. As it was about 12.00 we decided to make this our lunch stop. Not a bad spot for lunch anyway.

After we had finished lunch we drove back along Black Fellas Hand Trail which has been graded and new signs erected which was a pleasant change. We drove down to the

"Cave" where a brief stop was made where some had coffee while others got rid of the lunch time coffee!

We had a quick discussion on the remainder of the day. 3 options were given,

- 1) Finish the trip at Wogan road and head to Lithgow and home
- 2) Go to Baal Bone look out and turn around and come back
- 3) Go to Baal Bone lookout and continue the trip as planned which would be ending the trip about 4.00 and then driving home.

It was decided option 2 would be taken.

Crossing Wogan road we started the steep climb up the track only to find that right at the top a rather large wash-out and hole was close to the edge and made wheel placement critical. All made it safely and we continued along the track to the look out.

Once we reached the look out we had the traditional group photo only to see a very big and black rain cloud on the way. Nobody wanted to go down the hill with the wash out in the wet. That was not an option. If it was wet, the long track to the Mudgee road was the safest way out. We met up with 3 other cars and watched them go down the track and soon followed.

All down safely we aired up on the side of the Wolgon Road ready to head home.

Even with the extra time spent with the recovery, I hope everybody enjoyed them selves and would do the trip again.

As usual, a great group of people and a great day out.

Glenn.

P.S. Mitchell said to say thanks to the whole group who helped in the recovery and he owes all of us a beer.