



Baal Bone Gap

1 April 2012

Attendees -Andrew (Trip Leader) and Stephanie

Tims and Tim Hilux

Glen and Kim Coddington Hilux

Glenn Evans, Pat, Adrian and Frank Patrol

Sebastian Fox Prado

Steve Cail Landcruiser

Ray Naude Discovery

Stephen and Ryan Parkins Landcruiser

We all met at the Zig Zag railway at 9am for a 9.30am departure and a nice drive on a beautiful day. Most of us were on time and fuelled up as required with only one car a bit short on fuel.

Glenn wanted to do the wombat holes on the way through which proved to be a good warm up for what was to come. Glenn lead the way to the track and drove up first. As the rest of us lined up for the climb Glenn went back down the hill to give assistance to the other cars. After the last car came up there was a call over the radio that Glenn had done a tyre (only about 30mins into the day). Steve managed to add a beauty spot to his step but nothing bad.

The track had eroded away a fair bit since the last time the club had been up. There was a lot of mud and potholes – all the makings of a good day. A few people chose to walk some of the





really bad mud sections and work out where the drop offs were, others chose to just drive. Glen managed to push his rear bumper bar up again and lost another reflector (arb rear bar on order) while Glenn spent half an hour sorting out his car and removing mud from all the recovery points.

The Lost City was a beautiful sight as the day was sunny and clear. The views were crystal clear and the sun had a really good bite to it. We started heading out of the Lost City and back through the mud. Stephen got bogged in a sticky section and as he stepped out of his car, his sparkling white shoes turn brown! After a quick snatch out by Codd's we were all moving again. We continued towards Blackfellas and what did we find – more mud, but a bit more serious. We had managed to hook back up with Ray after he had to leave to get some more fuel and proceeded to attack the next mud section (just past the wave rock). Andrew and Steve made it through followed by Sebastian. Glen got through but not before hitting a huge rock taking the tyre off the bead and unfortunately had to drive out eventually doing a side wall. After a lot of snatching, winching and cursing we were all through the mud (this section is usually a nice drive between some rock walls). Stephen limped into the lunch spot and while

we had lunch tried to work out what damage was done to his car – likely a broken CV and maybe some other damage. Not to mention a slow leak in his tyre.

Stephen was given directions for him to get to Blue Hills and Ray followed him there to make sure he and Ryan got there safely. The rest of us soldiered on.

We crossed the road and onto another dirt track toward Baal Bone. Codd's got the usual front wheel lift going up a steep section of rocks but all got up safely. We continued on, stopped for some scenic photos while the sun was still shining as the clouds following us did not look very friendly. The radar was checked and there was a huge storm coming our way. Decisions had to be made and after hearing a call over the radio from a group of cars that we passed earlier saying that there was that much hail on the ground it looked like it had snowed all day, we decided to keep going forward. In the meantime Steve got a flat tyre. Glenn stayed with him to change it as the rest of us continued down into the valley. The sun disappeared and although it was only 3pm, it was pitch black. The lightning was lighting up the sky and the thunder was cracking. Unfortunately our pace was not cracking! Mud, mud, mud and more mud. The rain had now started and the valley was filling

up with water fast. Time to tackle the black muck.

First section Andrew had to winch himself out. His winch did not like it very much at all. Sebastian and Cods used super momentum and made it through.

Second section Andrew had to winch again. By this time the rain was getting heavy and the storm did no look as though it was going to give up any time soon and neither was the mud. Cods managed to get around and winch Andrew out and then had to come back for a final snatch as he just didn't make it out. The rain continued to pour. Glenn fell in the mud (very funny), everyone was soaked but still forging ahead as a calm group. All issues were assessed and planned and were well executed. There was however a major casualty. Glenn lost his flip flops in the mud.

We finally made the sign post that said Ben Bullen 12.5kms. After 150m Andrew was stuck in the mud again but this time he had the Chippendales to help him! Sebastian and Glenn had taken their shirts off and were now running into the mud to help. What a sight. Cods got around Andrew and winched him out again. The rain started to ease and so did the mud. We managed to all get out safely and air up. It was then a mandatory stop at Cullen Bullen pub for a well-earned beer (Thanks Andrew)

Everyone had a such a great day, even though a trip that should only take 4.5 hours took nearly 9 with damage to everyone. It was amazing how a grade 3 trip can so quickly turn into a grade 4-5.

Thank you Andrew for a fantastic day and well done on leading your first trip – it turned out to be doozie and you handled every situation well.

