

## The Pinnacles – 23 & 24 March 2013

### Trip Participants

Glen & Kim Coddington (trip leader)	TOYOTA Hilux
Iainn Maxwell	TOYOTA Prado
Andrew & Lucia Fox	TOYOTA Landcruiser
Brent, Darcy & Hugh McIntosh	TOYOTA Prado
Brett Clarke	TOYOTA Hilux

### Saturday

We were all due to meet at McDonalds Lithgow at 9am for a 9.30am departure. Unfortunately Glen & Kim were running late. The RMS in their greatest of wisdom decided to close Bells Line of Road just before the Darling Causeway at 8.45am so they could do skid testing of the road surface (maybe Glen and Kim would not have been stuck in this traffic had Kim remembered the pillows!) Stuck in traffic, Glen asked Kim to ring ahead to someone who was on our trip to let them know that they were going to be late, but Kim didn't bring anyone's phone numbers. After a very embarrassing call to their Ground Charlie, they got in touch with everyone and all were happy to wait. Arriving at the golden arches at 9.45am we were all on the road by 10.15am

We drove towards the start of our trip at Sunny Corner. All the way up the highway the clouds looked to be burning off for a fine day. We turned into Sunny Corner SF and aired down for our trip ahead. As we continued along, the sky started turning a nasty grey colour. We stopped for a cuppa tea break and it started to lightly sprinkle. We continued on, with the track throwing some challenges our way with steep climbs, ruts, river crossings etc. Everyone was doing great, even as the rain became heavy. We stopped just before we hit the National Park section to collect some firewood. We arrived at The Diggings camp ground at 2.10pm where we were staying for the night. We chose our spot, which was unfortunately occupied by a dead pig – and judging by the smell and flies it had been dead for a day or two at least. In true Team Toyota fashion, we were not going to let a dead pig ruin our weekend (although it explained why the other end of the camp ground was full!) It was here that Operation Pig Relocation was formed (The Fox takes on the Pig). Andrew and Iainn were determined to move it. Armed with rope they tried to hog tie it (ha ha get it?). Kim was armed with the camera but after the first smallest movement of the pig, the smell hit and she ran away gagging without taking a photo, threw the camera at Glen and said "here take photos". Andrew was sure that he could drag it away and apparently "What's left we can cover with dirt" GROSS! Andrew did a brilliant job of dragging the stinky, bloated dead pig into the bush, even if it was up wind from where we were camping! In the meantime, Iainn and Brent proceeded to cover the remaining bits and juices with dirt! After about 30 mins we were all setting up camp. Brett unloaded the timber we had put in his Hilux and everyone was starting to settle in.

We gathered for happy hour and sat around chatting and laughing over a few drinks. It was then time to get the fire going. We all had dinner and one by one gathered around the fire for more laughs and stupid jokes – and the occasional smell of the dead pig. Darcy and Hugh were having a great time poking sticks in the fire and pulling them out until Brent told them they were too close to the adults and to go and play on the road! The last group of people went to bed just after midnight.

### Sunday

The kids were up at breaking light, not that there was much light because of the cloud cover. Everyone appeared to be in good shape from the night before although appearances can be deceiving. We had breakfast and proceeded to pack up a wet camp. We headed back down The Pinnacle fire trail and on towards Cullen Bullen. The track was steep and had quite a bit of loose rocks and small bog holes but overall was good. On the way in we saw some tracks that headed up a steep hill, so we stopped there on the way back and most of us had a drive. It proved a challenge driving with the sun glare in your eyes; the clouds disappeared just at the right time! We finally made the bitumen at 12pm, aired up and all said our goodbyes. It was a great weekend away with a great group of people

