

# **Chichester State Forest**

ANZAC Weekend to the Chichester State Forest & Barrington Tops (25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & the 27<sup>th</sup> of April)

Trip Leader,  
Kurt (Nissan Patrol) & Arielle (11)

Participants,  
John (Toyota Hilux) with Joanne & Andrew  
Frances (Toyota Prado) with Gary, Aidan  
(11) & Liam (9)

Day 1,

I was running rather late so that's why I am doing this trip report due to roads being closed in Singleton due to the ANZAC day march. Finally I made it Dungog where the others were waiting and after introductions we headed into the Chichester State Forest and had lunch at a lovely spot by the creek at the Coachwood Camping area. After lunch we headed into the forest in search of some challenging 4WD tracks but had difficulties on finding any except for Reeves Road where we had some dense vegetation that gave us some bush pinstripes and we then came to a steep hill that frightened some people but everyone made it up with no problems. After Reeves Road we continued on our way into the Barrington Tops still unable to find any challenging 4WD tracks.....Then we came to the track to takes us into Barrington Tops but at the end of it (it was only about 500 metres long) we came to a tree that was blocking

the track. As it was starting to get late we decided to head back to a nice campground near where we had lunch. So we headed back to the Frying Pan Camp ground to set up camp. After setting up camp and having dinner we sat around the campfire til midnight.

Day 2,

We left around 9 after everyone had breakfast and headed off to Barrington Tops. We drove along more forestry roads towards Stratford where we stopped at the rest for a toilet break where we kicked the footy around and found fire wood for the fire that night that we were going to pick on our way back from Barrington Tops. After the rest stop we headed into Gloucester to top a fuel, morning tea and for some to pick up supplies. After our stop Gloucester we continued on into the Barrington Tops and after exploring a track we went to the Devils Hole picnic area for lunch and some of us went on which turned out to be a fantastic bush walk. After lunch we headed to the spectacular Devils Hole lookout where a few photos were taken. Then after the lookout we did a little trip that my daughter Arielle came up with and I must say did a fantastic job of navigating and communicating through the whole weekend. On that track we found some muddy rutted tracks to drive through that everyone enjoyed and when we finished the track it was time to head

## Trip report



back to camp. On the way back John had a roof rack come loose which we were able to fix with the great assistance of Gary. We went back to Stratford and picked up the firewood and headed back to camp which we got back at 10 at night...yes 10 at night so I think we all qualified for our night drivers certificates. So after everyone had dinner we all sat around the camp fire where we had a visit from an owl with roasted marshmallows being a favourite so we enjoyed the campfire to around 2 in the morning.



Day 3,

We had breakfast and packed up camp and headed into Dungog for morning tea. Just after we left it poured with rain so that was a bit of luck. After morning tea



John and family decided to head back home and we headed off to the Mount Royal National Park. After a toilet and fuel stop in Singleton we headed into Mount Royal National Park and on the drive in we came across a 3 metre snake (python) crossing the road which had to be the highlight of the many wildlife we saw on the weekend. After checking out the snake a bit closer and Frances noticing it had ticks we continued on our way. We entered Mount Royal National Park which on all I can say the vegetation is spectacular and just as spectacular was where we had lunch at the Youngville picnic area. After lunch we continued our drive through this spectacular Mount Royal National Park and then we headed back into Singleton where we said our goodbyes after a adventurous weekend.

