

# Howes Valley

Howes Valley Day Trip 16 February  
2014

Participants

Glen, Kim and Monica Coddington - Trip Leaders  
Colorado

Michael & Denise Kruger

Hilux

Craig Upton

Land Cruiser

Craig & Carole Slattery

Hilux

Rohit, Nupur and family

Prado

Conray & Chris Arbon

Bravo

We all met nice and early at Wilberforce to say our hellos and do introductions.

We left Wilberforce at around 8am and travelled up the Putty Rd, encountering cars towing horse floats at 65km/hr and worse, a tourist in a campervan doing 55km/hr. We all managed to get past the slow coaches with the tourist learning some new words! We eventually arrived at Grey Gums Café for a quick toilet and coffee stop (not quick enough because the tourist drove past as we were getting ready to leave) before heading off to terrorise the tourist once more!! After passing him again, we eventually made it to the start of the Howes Valley Fire Trail. This was Rohit's first club trip and he even bought the family along! We pulled onto the track where we aired down. Craig was not having

much luck with his ezy-deflator so asked Glen for his help. Between the 2 of them, they finally worked it out with each of them blaming the other. There had been a little rain during the morning but nothing that made the track slippery. We all went through the dry creek crossing and through some gates before heading up some steep hill climbs. We stopped for morning tea and a chit chat about how the trip was going. Nupur had made the best fudge brownies I have tasted! Nupur is definitely invited on our next trip!

We drove along to the Finchley camp ground where we had a very quick look at the aboriginal carvings as the rain was starting to become a bit heavier. We then went to Finchley Trig and braved the elements for a group photo. You couldn't really see much as the weather was not kind. Poor Chris stayed in the car as she was sick. Good on kind and caring Conray for dragging his sick wife out to 4wd in the rain!! Once we were all back in the cars it was off to Wollombi for lunch in the park. Thankfully the rain held off while we were eating. Rohit and family left the trip from here while the rest of the group decided to head back via St Albans to Wisemans Ferry. The trip through to St Albans was spectacular. The fog and mist was slowly dropping into the valley offering us some amazing scenery as we drove through the rainforest section. We had to stop at St Albans pub for a toilet break which turned into a 1.5 hour stop with some responsible rehydrating was done. Everyone was having a great laugh. Craig managed to knock over one of the locals glass of wine and survive.

We had to drag ourselves away from the pub to head home. We farewelled the others at the Webbs Creek ferry as Kim, Glen and Craig headed home via the Bicentennial Rd, Wheelbarrow Ridge Fire Trail, down through Upper Colo to Lower Colo, Wheeny Creek and back through Kurrajong! It was a great day out despite the weather with an awesome group of people.

