



# MONKEY GUM

Trip leader:- Sebastien Fox In his Mini Mog (Prado)

Followers :- Stefan Fischer in his Disco (Discovery 2)

Gary Peemoller and Son Jesse in the Trol (Patrol GUV)

Don't let the weather in Sydney determine if you should go on an outing 2 + hrs away. Rain in Sydney and most of the way down to a drizzle at the meeting place "Coolendel" ( west of Nowra in the Morton NP) where Sebastien and Stefan stayed Friday night, I met up on Sat. morning at 830 am with Jesse in tow.

The drizzle stopped about 10 minutes after I got there and the rest of the day was basically



dry with only the minor short shower, overcast and perfect for running around

in the bush, whilst Sydney was drowning in heavy rain.

Sebastian had a glorious night sleep in a \$29 tent that leaked and found himself bailing water out and putting on a pair of floaties.

Anyway we aired down and went on our merry way to Burrier Rd off Grassy Gully Rd, left into Yalwal Rd, right into Deans Gap Rd, right into Mintbush Track which turns into Wombat Plat Rd before at Boolijong Creek, turns into Monkey Gum Fire Track finishing at Braidwood Rd.

Both Sebastien and Stefan's trucks are locked and Jacked up with the Trol basically standard with only a 2 " lift. I was told by a colleague at work that he had gone only 3 weeks earlier and it would be a good challenge for me. Sebastien and Stefan said it was a fair while since they were last on the track, so didn't really know what to expect.

The track was not overly difficult, but still shouldn't be done on one's own with both

Sebastien and Stefan not having any issues on the track due to their lift and lockers while my Trol only faulted at



a couple of obstacles due to the lack of the above and a rear bar, so I had to take the alternative approaches. There's no skill in wrecking a truck, anyone can do that.

The track has plenty of deep ruts and a couple of clay sections, one of which had the Trol a little upset and trying to go off into the bush, it was a bit unnerving as I couldn't go forward, only sideways and ever closer to the edge with the front, and when going back it just wanted to go in the same direction. We got it sorted out with some spotting and decided to straddle the rut and all was good. This isn't a super hard track but, as always exercise caution and common sense. The ruts are not what you want to fall into.



Sebastien was trying to find a particular camp site along the track but I think he kept blinking every time we past one, so we never actually located the one he was looking for. The ones I did see looked pretty good to stay the night so maybe another time .

We stopped for lunch not far from the last obstacle / hill climb as there we report of a group coming down. The Toyota Land Cruiser Club with 10 vehicles, so we ate lunch and watched.

Near the end of the track at the base of the hardest part there is a lovely cliff face with Palm Trees and ferns, almost like an oasis. This is also the



place we notice a young chap, Matthew and his girl friend in a Nissan Navara coming down on his own. We advised it wasn't the track to do this late in the day and by yourself, so he turned around and stayed with us to the end. It was just as well as his tyre pressures were too high at 28psi and one of his front manual hubs weren't in lock position which made things difficult. He was only on the track because of the 4x4 action video he had had watched made it look so easy, that's the way people get into trouble.

All in all it was a great day out, Sebastien and Stefan made their way home whilst Jesse and I went ultimately back to Coolendel for the night via the Danjera Dam and Mackenzie lookout.

Thanks Sebastien and Stefan for the great day out , my son had a great time filming the trip and can't wait for the next.

YouTube Video available

