

# Mt Airly - Capertee Weekend

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2013

### Participants

Chris and Mary Keys (trip leader)	Nissan Patrol
Nigel and Vickie Ward	Toyota Land Cruiser
Duane, Tammy and Ayden Rieser	Mitsubishi Triton
Brad and Jenny Lyttle	Toyota FJ Cruiser and CUB camper

Weather – perfect

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December

We met at Lidsdale United petrol station at 9-15am. After the formalities we headed up the Castlereagh Highway to Capertee. Once thru Capertee we took the Glen Davis road and after about 15k we turn off the bitumen heading up to Airly village.

With Chris in the lead he takes the group to the first of many sites where there are old ruins of miners cottages hidden amongst the trees and undergrowth.

The track to the old mine site was getting narrow so we decided to unhitch the CUB trailer and leave it at one of the ruins where we could turn around.



Continuing on we ended up at the old mine site which still had the old ventilation shafts and an old boiler to look over. Heading back, and a few more

pinstripes later we hitch the trailer up and drove onto a cleared area where we had some lunch.

After lunch we drove onto Mt Airly track, which is located on a private property. As Chris explained, this property's 99 year lease has just expired and the property has been handed over to the National Parks to manage.

The track up to the lookout goes past the farm house and the many old cars, buses, trucks, machinery, junk and 3 airplanes (Not sure why you would have old planes on a country property). It was very steep and spectacular passing through a narrow section with steep walls either side. Once at the top it was just a short walk to a lookout over the impressive Gardens of Stone National Park.

After spending a good half an hour taking in the view it was time to head back down the mountain and past the "Mt



Airly airport" and back onto the Glen Davis road.

Looking for a place to camp for the night we ended

up at Corrangooba campground not far from Glen Davis. A lovely spot with sheer cliffs surrounding the campground. We strategically set up camp away from the group of guys on a "bucks night" camping weekend and settled in for beer o'clock.

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

After a sleep in and a slow pack up we headed for home.

A spur of the moment left turn, up the Blackfellows Hand track to Zig Zag took us through some of the bush that was devastated by the recent bush fires.

A short stop at Zig Zag to air up, take a mandatory group photo and say our goodbyes ended a great weekend.

Thank you to Chis for an informative and fun weekend.

