

NEWNES TO BEN BULLEN

Early Saturday morning Karl phoned to say that he had a bug (year end function previous night ...) and could not lead the trip, luckily Sebastian was available.

On Saturday 3 December Sebastian in his Prado and Simon (with Christina) in his newly modified FJ Cruiser did a few tracks through Newness, followed by the Blackfellow Hand Trail, through Wolgan State Forest and ending at the Ben Bullen Trail. We all met at Zig Zag Railway Station at 8:45am, did a quick vehicle check and tyre pressure adjustment before we were on our way.

On the way to the trail we did a quick hill climb under the power lines. After walking the route, contemplating the different lines to take and watching another group (about 6 cars) Sebastian and Simon attempted the climb, making it look like a walk in the park.

For the next 20kms it was fairly easy going with beautiful scenery until we reached the Blackfellows Hand Trail picnic area for lunch. After a quick walk to the rock painting we all settle down for lunch under the trees. After lunch Sebastian and Simon used the trees to unwind and rewind Simon's new winch now ready for use in the future.

After lunch we were on our way again with an easy run across Wolgan Road to Wolgan State Forest. We were met with one of the most challenging obstacles at the start of the track. Sebastian and Simon both navigated the obstacle with ease. The drive along the Mountain was fairly easy with a few ruts and some standing water on the road to make it interesting. After a quick stop at the lookout over Wolgan valley we continued on the route. Just before we reached the descent obstacle we met a group of young men who just came up the obstacle we were planning to go down – all as white as sheets warning us off. No problem for Sebastian and Simon. For the next 10 or so kilometres we navigated easy but enjoyable 4WD terrain. We closed the trip just before we reached the tarmac close to the town of Ben Bullen. Thank you Sebastian for being an exceptional trip leader. It was a great day with a good mix of challenges and easy to medium 4 wheel driving – just enough of a challenge for both the drivers and the vehicles.

Simon & Christina Sypkens

