



Six Foot Track & Gibraltar Rocks

Date: 3 December 2017

Participants

Wolfgang Lerchner (Leader) with Sarina Lerchner

George & Kate Koutifaris with Kon & Clara Monique & Mark Clelland with James & Nicholas

Mark Corkery & Erin Zumot

Hristo Pavlov with Kristina

Steve Sheather with Mackenzie

Ray Cook with Trent Cook & Peter Webb

Our experience really began on the day before the trip when it started pouring around midday and the showers continued until late in the evening. This was the weekend that parts of Victoria were belted with 80-100mm of rain.

We all received an email update from Wolfgang who was carefully monitoring the situation and informed us that the trip is still

happening as the rain had now stopped and no more rain was expected for the next day.

The only concern was that the 20mm or so that fell in the area of the trip may have had an effect on a couple of steep sections but it was decided to go and assess the conditions on the spot and decide which parts of the trip we were going to do. The good news was that there would be no or very little dust on the road and the rain may have made some of the creek crossing a little more interesting.

We gathered at the Hampton Halfway Hotel for an early brekkie and some much needed caffeine for the early start of our trip to Gibraltar Rocks and the Bowtells Suspension Bridge. After a short briefing around 8:30am we headed off to the start of the trip at Black Range Rd. Here we aired down and started rolling under good road conditions.

The interesting bits however didn't start until we turned off down the Waterfall Creek Fire Trail and had to move to low range. We first



crawled all the way down the creek which had just enough water for an easy but splashy crossing.

We then headed uphill where we found some quite enjoyable steep and rutted sections. There was no clay but some sections were still wet and they were served with a little slippery seasoning – yum! We slowly made our way to the top, where we made our first stop, near the very deep and steep drop - at the edge of the Gibraltar Rocks!



The views were stunning. We posed for a group photo and did a very short walk before having morning tea, packing up and heading back to the main 6 Foot Track. On the way in we noticed a long and wide muddy bog whole. Most cars avoided it but two of us went through and it turned out that it wasn't deep and the bottom was okay. So on the way out all of us went through it and we took the opportunity to take some videos as well.

When going down though the steep, wet and rutty section the back wheel of one of the cars slipped in the ruts and got stuck at a side angle. Once the photo session finished we started working on the recovery. To play safe we winched the car back up the slope and then lowered it down to even ground. A nice recovery by all involved!



muddy bog holes, no dust, great views, great walk to and across the bridge and even a little practice in easy vehicle recovery. Kids had a lot of fun, too. What else could we ask for? Well, the hot shower and a glass of something back home made the experience complete.

Trip report by Hristo Pavlov. Photos by Mark Corkery and Monique Clelland.

Once we got on the main track things got easier again. After another hour or so and another couple of creek crossings we finally arrived at the campground spotting a number of skippies on the way. All of us took the enjoyable walk to the suspension bridge and across the bridge, too. Many of us also crossed the river and climbed back on the steep path. It was time for lunch and play time for the kids. We aired up on the way out and finished off around 5 pm once we reached Great Western Highway near the Lolly Bug.

It was a great and enjoyable day. We've got steep hills, rutted tracks, creek crossings,

