

High Country Trip – November 2011



Airing down

For this weekend we set out to retrace the steps of a 4WD Action DVD with Graham. Having allocated just three days to complete a five day trip it was somewhat adjusted. Friday saw us RV in Heyfield at 10am with a slight delay for two trucks who misjudged the time it takes to get there. Come 11:30 we were enroute to Chromite Mine Campsite. Located off to the east of the Licola-Jamieson Road we turned right and aired down, getting stuck into it straight away. A quick lunch trackside ensured we rolled into camp

at about 4pm. A nice clearing sheltered from wind and away from the track, we lit a fire and settled in for the night. Palmer found the creek and threw a line in. The friendly banter began and much to the amazement of all that were present, he caught a trout! Better yet it was big enough to eat! The look on Nashy's face was priceless. A few beers later and Daz felt comfortable enough to give himself a pedicure. Terrific...?



Now for dinner



Pedicure anyone

In the morning we set off and tackled Dingo Hill Track, a surprisingly steep decent with several tight switch backs. We will definitely be incorporating that in another trip. Lunch was had on Caledonia River Track by the river itself, a beautiful pristine location that has to be seen to be believed.

After lunch we left Caledonia River Track and I could sense some disappointment from members as we did so, it really was a beautiful river and an excellent track. However I was reassured later that disappointment was soon forgotten because ten metres into Butcher Country Link Track saw the bonnet and rev limiter reach the sky as we crawled up an awesome mountain. That saw us travel north across some spectacular plains, views a plenty.

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Darryl educated us along the way with deer hunting tips and techniques and come 3 or 4 pm we arrived at Howitt Hut. Ironically we checked the visitors' book and found 4WD Action had been there just two days prior. Another fire and another beer soon saw the night roll in and plans were made to see Wonnangatta for lunch on Sunday morning.



Howitt Hut



Another fire and another beer

After a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs, Marcus and Wayne made their way back to Mansfield via King Billy track and the rest of us followed Darrell into the 'Gatta. A few happy snaps at the cemetery and homestead footings were taken before it was time to head home. Palmer and Darrell set their sights on Myrtleford and Dave & Michael went up Zeka Spur and King Billy to Mansfield. Lyle and I couldn't resist the 30 degree weather and decided to stay another night. Unfortunately come 5pm the weather took a turn for the worse and brought with it a large thunder storm. It didn't take much rain to convince us a late night road trip was better than an early night camping in the rain. Leaving the Gatta at 5pm, going up Zeka in the wet made for an interesting drive. With a smile from ear to ear and the truck in second gear we eventually saw Mansfield at 11pm. Sadly the service stations were closed which left us without an air compressor. At a steady 70 – 80 km/h we drove to Lilydale arriving at 1am. Exhausted and relieved we made it, a hot shower and comfortable bed ensured a good night's sleep.

The following morning stories of the trip home were exchanged. Palmer and Daz seemed to have the best run, home without incident. Dave and Michael endured a massive drive - Geelong is quite a distance. And Wayne had a little car sickness... We've concluded it's not a good idea to split the group on 4WD tracks. In future we would like to see members taken to a Gazetted road should they wish to go their separate way. And we will also look to nominating which tracks we aim to do on the trip to ensure everyone knows what's on the cards. Other than that I'd say we all had a good time and I'm pleased to hear members planning their next High Country Run as soon as possible.

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A big thank you to Palmer, Darrell, Marcus, Wayne and my guests Lyle, Dave and Michael for coming along. Looking forward to the next one.

Cheers - Brownny.