

# Belthorpe Day Trip

Pulling out from our driveway at 6.30am, we immediately noticed that the truck had no power. Suddenly, the look on Woolli's face indicated that he knew what the problem was. The previous weekend, he had been doing some work on the intake system and had stuffed a rag into the turbo inlet to stop dirt entering. With a pile of work distractions before getting time to finish, he inadvertently left the rag in place, so as soon as the truck started, the rag was sucked down into the turbo. Bonnet up, airbox out and the offending rag removed, we hit the road 15 minutes late.

It always seems that when you're in a hurry, every second driver wants to sit on 85 in the fast lane and I know Woolli felt like driving over the top of some, but we eventually pulled up at Woodford right on 8.30. Thankfully everyone was very understanding and waited for us. I ran into the Woodford Bakery to grab some supplies and made it out in time for the drivers briefing. 8.45am and the convoy was off. Participants were Scooby, Chuga with Matt as co-driver, Clinton, Greg, Colin, Lance, Andy and family with Lyndon as a passenger, Steve and Helen, Grizzly, Woolli and myself.

We aired down in the day use car park, made the last trip to the toilet, and headed out for our drive. After the rain the tracks were not as dusty as they were when some of the drivers did the recky, they were damp in parts, muddy and even slippery. We stopped at 10.30 for morning tea at the Belthorpe mill ruins. Someone commented on how big the crane must've been to have a base the size of what remained there. We had an interesting creek crossing at one point, the track went down to the right, then left, then straight up the other side. Everyone had a go except Colin due to low ground clearance, and everyone made it through.

We had lunch at Little Yabba Park where Scooby cooked up a sausage sizzle (great idea Scooby!) and had a chat for just over an hour. We then headed up Mary River Road and had a few gates to open and close, including some electric fences. We stopped for afternoon tea at the hang-glider platform with beautiful views. Chuga had some debris lodged between his tyre bead and the rim and was losing air, so during the stop he cracked the bead, cleaned it out and reinflated the tyre.

We stopped at Obi lookout to air up and headed home at 3.45. We arrived home at 6.30pm, a solid 12 hour day. It was an enjoyable day though with great company!

The best part is that we will be out of the country for the July meeting, so Woolli should dodge the fine for the rag...

## Linda Krey



