

Corroboree 2014

3rd – 6th October

.Landcruiser Mountain Park

Friday the 3rd October the commencement of an impending long weekend, which saw many 4 wheel drivers setting up camp on the beautiful slopes of Landcruiser Mountain Park. The long awaited 2014 Corroboree had finally arrived, officially marking the end of the many months of preparation & planning, particularly for our clubs co-ordinator David Lord. As we arrived mid afternoon, we were greeted by a large number of fellow members, who had already taken up residency, however we drew the largest of all onlookers as my silver leafed Toyota Camry limped into camp, towing the off road camper, which immediately prompted a call by an anonymous person to the sergeant at arms, consequently I'm fined upon arrival!!!! Unfortunately we were 4x4less due to a timing device, which eventually took more than a week to rectify. Never mind, as always I turned our misfortune into a positive experience, later running my own trip, and as trip leader!!!! The arrival of so many different club groups made it a busy afternoon for our club members, who eagerly assembled at the registration shed with enthusiasm to meet and greet the many drivers who wished to register for the 11 trips on offer.

The inward park trips proved to be the most popular which unfortunately saw the cancelation of some trips, no doubt relieving some club members of driving duties and making way for some exciting combined trips. As darkness fell across the camp, it became clear just what club had the most attendees, congratulations Brisbane 4x4 Club, the largest turnout accounting for a quarter of all those in total. Friday night saw the normal chit chat around the fire, with the inclusion of a small group from the Ipswich club.

As morning arrived, delicious aromas circulated the camp ground, paving the way for what would turn out to be, an action packed days activity. With an 8.30 start, 11 fourbies and 1 jeep lined up for a medium run forest drive, with Pugsley as trip leader, and Paul & Alison Tedder as tail. Paul reports there were quite a few Patrols from the QLD Patrol Club and a new Y62 Patrols on h/t tyres that bent a rear plastic bumper on a rocky climb. Most people took the harder options on both the steep climbs and the rough steep descent. Alison made note that all on the trip collected quite a considerable amount of discarded rubbish at every pit stop opportunity, which was lovely to see all club members pitching in and caring for the environment. As the trip approached camp, it was decided to pass camp road and watch the modified trucks demonstrating their fearless attempts at persuading others to give it a go!!!!

Around 9am saw the departure of 5 other trips with fourbies lining the entrance all heading for different locations. The laughter and chatter could be heard from camp, as drivers mingled in conversation. As some of us ladies decided on a quiet morning in, it was time to sit back and relax, for a friendly laugh/chat and cuppa without the boys. With lunch upon us, the influx of fourbies, dust, chatter and hard luck stories emerged from the echoes, with tales of competitiveness and mateship.

As all was revealed, wives could be seen casually inspecting their marital vehicle interest, while husbands and partners laughed about, who out did who!!!! Vinces alias Scooby reported on his mystery trip, that prior to the morning departure, he informed all participants that they needed a call sign. Moving off they sounded with Scooby in the lead, followed by road runner, red dog, tag, goanna, bugs bunny, blue, with Anzac and partner biscuit, cleaning up the crumbs as tail.

As the convoy entered Troopy Trail, ascending and descending, it was mentioned on the UHF that morning tea would have been a positive step, however not all were equipped with refreshments. At this point Anzac mentioned in dispatches that he may have some choccy biscuits on board. Well upon hearing this response Scooby (Vince) immediately called SMOKO!!!! on Hilux Hill. Moving on from here, it was through the dust and dirt, around, up, down, in and out, all the while Vince with the private knowledge that he was going to test his followers on an extreme track drive, but with this in mind Vince failed to consult the correct map consequently leading his followers on an easy drive. Most drivers thought that the experience was rated adventure before dementia, but unfortunately for the trip leader it was the dementia before adventure!!!! During the course of this easy trail, it did possess some hairy turns with some close shaves, but all emerged victorious, and thanks to Anzac for the biscuity brunch.

As further intensive conversation leaked it became apparent that yet another Patrol owned by a certain Gary, fellow joined the ranks of captaincy with his white submarine, submerging it almost to the windows, in the murky brown depths of the Brisbane River. Who would think the head of the Brisbane River would be that deep, considering our current drought conditions!!!! This fast became a talking point as one of the most popular trips run by the club. Gary spent all afternoon recovering from his ordeal and cleaning the interior of his wagon, before cleaning and grooming himself in readiness for the camp oven dinner.

Saturday afternoon saw the Challenge track opened, when most were set to roll on another drive, word went out that David aka (Jesus) had opened the track for some serious fun. So a thousand screaming trucks headed to the track, oops I mean about 12 fourbies. At the track we followed the leader driving over the stack of logs, with some making it look easier than others, but wait, I noticed that up in the corner there's a Pajero driving the wrong way, however as luck would have it, no risk of a head on, as he wasn't moving. Stuck on a rock, can't go forward, can't go back so, time for the snatch strap!! All was looking good, until the ants started to bite!! "yes" Mike had parked his Pajero, right there against the nest.

Next in line was Pugsley looking for his slice of the action, in the jeep, over tractor tyres he bumped, with a bit of wheel spin the jeep made it, next it was Anzac in the 80 series, well, all was going fine until the lower part of his bulbar became attached to the tractor tyre, with a few careful moves, a couple of rocks and logs strategically placed the 80 was up

and over. Dylan in the 60 series was the one to watch, he had the 60 on the move until his leaf springs caught on that proverbial tractor tyre. With max-trax, a high lift jack, rocks, logs and many helpful hands, the 60 was free, just in time for the Association meeting to commence in the stage area arena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was off to take the registrations for the following days trips, happy hour also took place at the venue, due to all club members being present. During the course of the afternoon it was suggested by the Bundaberg Club that they would like to run a "Night Drive" due to popular demand by their members. This drive quickly filled with 14 registered drivers.

As nightfall approached it was over to the camp oven dinner which was stewing nicely. The camp oven dinner consisted of a 3 meat stew served on a bed of rice, supplied by the owners Alben & Helen of Landcruiser Mountain Park. Around 9pm, as departure time approached for the night drive, the number decreased to just 6 fourbies, with alcohol the likely possibility for the decline in number! As driver Anzac, together with Matt and two hitchhikers, myself and Tegan from our club lined up for the tail end duties, it became apparent the nominated trip leader had obviously fallen in love with a bottle and departed company, leaving the tail enders to become trip leaders.

So it was onwards and upwards on a modified head of the Brisbane River run, navigated by Matt Zander negotiating the map by torchlight. Periodically we passed numerous camps, dodged several kangaroos, and chased hundreds of hares in our endeavour to locate the murky depths where the white submarine had made its landing, several hours prior!!! To our surprise our convoy declined the offer of captaincy, choosing to take a shallower approach whilst attempting the reported treacherous river crossing. After completing the loop, we headed for camp, arriving back at the fire about 11pm. A nice late evening drive had by all.

With the dawning of Sunday, many fourbies lined the 5 corridors in anticipation of a fun filled day, which saw the head of the Brisbane River and Scooby's mystery trip the most popular destinations. Scooby scooped the pool with more than 20 fourbies in attendance, after word circulated that it was a great drive.

As the morning progressed some reported feeling a little ill, including yours truly, which may have had something to do with what was consumed the previous evening. At this point, not to be out done by the boys, I too decided I would run a trip in my Camry, offering to drive Tracey Brett (aka Mrs Grizley), to the shower block, followed by tail end Charlie Tracie Thompson in her green machine. All arrived safe at the showers, no breakages were reported, however there was 1 mishap that had occurred, with a certain member of the party unable to locate the toilet roll holder within the cubicle, consequently requesting paper be passed from another, leaving one member vulnerable to the elements of the shower block. Upon receiving the paper, I realised that the holder was indeed located above on the wall to my left, stacked full!!! This naturally was a cause for laughter!!!! Again I'm fined!!

Following lunch, a few short modified trips were organised which saw several female drivers taking the opportunity to display their capabilities by shunting their male partners to the passenger seat.

Mid afternoon focused on more activities at the Challenge track, followed by happy hour and interclub games. This year the games were run by stand alone club member Chris, who stepped up to represent the Ipswich Club by co-ordinating a very entertaining evening of fun & laughter.

Unfortunately for some, who own Jeeps, the evening finished on a more creaking & cracking note, with Pugsley again damaging his beloved Jeep, after playing on the challenge track & then using his machine to cheat during the official tug o war. With the games over & the Jeep parked, many headed off for a scrub followed by dinner and a night of relaxation around the fire. At times not a word sounded from the usual banter & chit chat we're accustomed too, as the NRL Grand Final between the South Sydney Rabbits & the Canterbury Bulldogs kicked off. Thanks to Vince and the crackly ABC, AM car radio, we were able to cheer along with our desired teams.

The loudest cheers could be heard echoing throughout the hills when the mighty red and greens broke a 43 year drought winning 30 – 6.

Monday morning, and the impending end of a great weekend loomed, however the weekend wasn't over until one final trip departed for a short drive, leaving the girls to pack the campers and clean the dishes. As this trip was organised at short notice, a certain male with the name Terry decided to unrope/peg his gazebo in readiness for a quick departure home, however whilst away enjoying himself, the wind speed increased blowing Terry's gazebo away, eventually sheltering the camp of Vince.

During the course of the morning it appeared the parked Jeep wasn't heading home with rotating wheels, but hitching a ride on a flat bed truck, towing the new camper trailer!! This was not all that Pugsley had to contend with, he had previously slipped on a hill, landing on the only stone that inhabited the area, which later proved to have more impact leaving a bruise the size of China on his behind, which was later doctored by Mrs Grizzly, who commented that this trip she had seen more cracks than her eyes were accustomed too.

David Lord wishes to thank all members who contributed to making the weekend a huge success for the Brisbane 4WD Club. I would like to thank those members who passed information on in order to assist with the writing of this report.

Carol Moore (ONESIE)

***Note: Brisbane 4WD Club volunteered to assist 4WD QLD with the Corroboree by running trips and helping with registration. Editor**