

## Day Trip to Mt Mee

We rose Sunday morning to a fine day but after Friday's deluge, wasn't sure what to expect when we arrived at Mt Mee. What would the tracks be like? Would they even be open? Would my highway tires get me through if there was mud? Wait, I'm getting ahead of myself. We made coffee and packed the car for the day ahead and were ready to go about 7.30 am but Tina couldn't find her iPod so 20 minutes later we pulled out the driveway iPodless. We had two of the grandkids stay over Saturday night so had to return them to their parents on the way and after a quick stop we were on the Mt Lindsay Hwy heading for the Gateway motorway.

After what seemed like hours in the car we arrived at the Dayboro bakery at about 9.10 am. There were a dozen or so club members waiting in the small area to the side of the bakery so we parked the car and joined the group. Carol (Onesie) was running this trip and brought the trip sheet over for us to fill in and sign, she said that we were not the last to arrive and that the group would wait till 9.30. Tina got us a couple of pies for brunch and we chatted with the rest of the group for a while until Onesie declared we waited long enough and the stragglers would just have to catch us up along the way. So the group formed a convoy for the drive to Mt Mee and Vince serenaded us with his theme song, Convoy, over the uhf as we headed out of Dayboro.

The vehicles for today's drive were a couple of Jeep's, two Disco's, a Defender, a Navara, one Patrol, our Mazda BT and no Toyota's. The drive to Mt Mee was easy and uneventful but once there we found all the tracks closed due to Friday's rain so we stopped at The Gantry day area to discuss what to do, Onesie tried in vain to get phone service to contact David Lord whom she thought would be joining us for the day out but had no luck. Oh Lord where art thou, any way it was decided that Bellthorpe might be a better option and soon we were on the road again in search of open tracks for us to traverse. Again Convoy came over the two way as our group travelled to our next destination.

It was already lunch time when we arrived at Bellthorpe, so the convoy stopped at Brandon's Mill and soon there were sausages sizzling on barbies and tables and chairs, it was like a mobile alfresco café had arrived. Vince told us that on previous trips he had spoken to the local ranger and found out this was the site of an old saw mill that at one time had employed up to 200 people, but now was just a collection of old and rusty equipment that people who visited looked at and wondered. Soon it was time to get going and we packed up our tables and chairs and our mobile café was mobile again. Each time the convoy stopped and started the order of vehicles changed but Vince's patrol was always lead and Danny's disco T.E.C.

The Bellthorpe forest tracks were open and for the most part looked like they had missed the rains which had deluged the city and surrounding areas just two days earlier. It was easy two wheel drive for the first part but as we ventured further along the track changed getting wetter and slipperier. I soon engaged 4wd as the rear of the car started to squirm on the greasy surface as the track climbed higher up to a ridge that formed part of the Conondale Range. On the top the road seemed drier but I stayed in 4wd as soon we would start to descend again down into the valley that formed part of the Stanley river catchment area. Along the way we passed the turn off to Jimna which had a road closed ahead sign in place as water still covered the road at the Sandy creek crossing.

At one point on the trip Vince found a play area with some small hill climbs and invited us to try to follow him if we dared. I didn't even see him turn off the main track and only realized where he was when I saw the bulbar of the patrol peeking over the top of the jump up he was on as I passed along the main track. I don't know if he tried more than once but he did not make it up and backed out to take the chicken around. The Defender had a go at another climb just in front of me on the same bank but also was unsuccessful and drove round to the easy track behind Vince. I decided I would have a go at the same one and as I was already at the top I would use it to go down into the play area then come back up the same way, it did take me three goes but I'm happy to say that the BT made it back up unaided, not bad for it's first real challenge.

The rest of the trip from there passed fairly quietly as we wound our way down to the valley floor and soon we were back on the black top heading to Kilcoy for a comfort stop. After a short break at Yowie park the group split with some heading home via Wivenhoe dam to check out the spillway and the rest heading back through Woodford where we stopped for a coffee at the bakery before the long trip home.

Thanks Carol (Onesie) for a good day and thanks to all who came along to make the day even better you know who you are.

Oh and David it's over, you can go home now.

**Cheers Paul and Tina**