



Snow Day Trip

Frenchman's Spur / Mt. Matlock
28 September 2003

Daryl, Veronica & Rachel Owen – Toyota Hilux
Andy Kass – Toyota L/C
Simon, Minka & Jack Lehmann – Toyota Hilux Visitor
Ashley, Kylie, Jordie, Jessie Mills – Toyota Hilux Visitor
Deken, Rachel & ? ? – Nissan Patrol Visitor

Meeting at Yarra Junction at 8am, we departed shortly after heading along the Warburton – Woods Point Road.

Following the winding roads through Reefton, our first sign of snow was at about 880m Above Sea Level near the Marysville – Woods Point Road.

Stopping for morning tea along the Warburton – Woods Point Road, and with plenty of snow it wasn't safe to turn your back for a second. White balls were flying in all directions and no one was safe.



There was a rumor that the Springs hut area had been closed, since it is private property. Only one way to confirm this, so we headed down a 200-300mm snow covered track. Crossing an old dam with a vehicle wreck we came across a newly installed gate, and padlock.

Back to the main road and onto Frenchman's Spur Track.



A brief stop and look around at Frenchman's hut. This is a hut in reasonable condition, considering the amount of use it gets.

From here we continued along Frenchman's Spur Track to Two Mile Track where we dropped below the snow line and down a steep track where we followed Frenchman's Creek to a crossing and then began the climb back up the other side of the valley.



Faced with a steep rocky outcrop, the decision was made to reverse the 150m back to the main track, Daryl lost traction and began a 4 wheel slide on rocks and loose gravel. Even utilizing the stall procedure failed to gain traction. Faced with little option but to line up a tree is very daunting to say the least. It was not intentional to finish up sideways on a steep track. Backing into a small tree prevented the vehicle from rolling over. A good investment is a strong towbar, with no damage other than a reflector that was popped off by a shrub and later recovered, the vehicle was carefully turned downhill and then onto find a place for lunch and to settle some nerves.



After lunch just below the snow line, we were soon back into it.

A brief stop on a helipad, for Jack to have a feed allowed time for another round of snow fights.

With everyone's hands blue and numb it was time to call a truce and continue on to Mt. Matlock.

Corn Hill saw a few challenges, with the slippery snow and mud.



A quick stop at Mt. Matlock and then home via Marysville and Healsville.



Traveling a total distance of 267Km we returned to Coldstream at about 5:30pm.

Report by Daryl Owen